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New York

President: Mr. Lajčák ..... (Slovakia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda items 30, 65 and 111 (*continued*)

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/72/721)

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund

Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740)

The President: I want to start by thanking Ambassador Ion Jinga, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), and his predecessor, Ambassador Cho Tae-yul.

I am delighted to open this crucial discussion today. In doing so, I will make three main points.

First, I want to talk about how this meeting came about. More than 15 years ago, world leaders gathered in this Hall to do something new. They had seen that we had a hole in our international system. We had the tools to respond to a conflict once it had broken out, but we had very little for what came after — for when a peace deal started to buckle or when it looked as if violence would flare up again. This clearly did not make sense. Why invest heavily in responding to conflict only to let the gains slip through our fingers?

And so, in 2005, we decided to change things. We chose to create new tools, including the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund, as well as the Peacebuilding Support Office, to coordinate and advise. Then, 10 years later, we took a step back to review how we had done. The answer was quite simple — we had done good work, but not enough. This was most stark in the area of conflict prevention. Yes, we had the tools to respond to conflict, and yes, we had developed new ones to use in its immediate aftermath. But there was much more left to do, particularly before a conflict erupted or when a country was piecing itself back together. And so we committed to doing more to prevent the outbreak and recurrence of conflict. We called that concept "sustaining peace".

That is why, in April 2016, twin resolutions were adopted here in the General Assembly (resolution 70/262) and a few yards down the hall in the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)). Not only do they call for a new approach to peace, they also mandate a special high-level event for taking stock down the line, which brings me to last month's high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87). As my second point, I will give a very brief snapshot of that meeting. To start with, I believe that three main achievements came from it.

First, it raised visibility. Nearly 30 delegations were represented at the ministerial level or higher, including six Heads of State and Government, which meant that our meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace attracted the highest levels of attendance at the United Nations this year. I believe that this is truly significant.

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Secondly, it carved out a wider space on our agenda. Although peacebuilding has been on our radar for more than 15 years, the sustaining peace resolutions call for a new approach, an innovation, an expansion and a new way of working. The high-level meeting showed that this was not a one-off call that would soon be left on the shelf. Instead, it outlined a framework for follow-up. At the meeting's conclusion, we adopted a consensus resolution (resolution 72/276) that gave a mandate to Secretary-General Guterres to continue reporting on how we are doing and where we can improve.

Thirdly, it enabled us to hear about what is and is not working on the ground. There was wide participation, with 130 delegations and 150 civil-society participants, which allowed us to share best practices and lessons learned and reflect on the various recommendations of the Secretary-General's report on sustaining peace (A/72/707), which was released before the event.

We heard many stories from the ground. Some of them were frankly horrifying. We heard about the realities of war, its toll on people, its staggering financial costs and the trauma it brings, which is felt by whole societies even after the guns have fallen silent. Other stories were more hopeful. Governments told us about changes they are making to give higher priority to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We heard about ideas for new strategic partnerships. Women peacebuilders took the floor and shared some amazing results of their work. Business representatives expressed major interest in deeper engagement on this issue, and United Nations officials from across the system shared inspiring success stories.

Some, however, pointed to gaps. Many criticized the chronic underfunding of the Peacebuilding Fund. They called for increased focus on conflict prevention — both through tackling the root causes of conflict and through faster and more responsive, diplomacy and mediation. And they told us that inclusion is still the exception, not the norm, with women and young people still being excluded from the table. I have attempted to reflect these and many more issues in my Chair's summary, which was released yesterday. And today's meeting gives us a way to follow up on them, given that we are here to assess and recommit to some of our most important tools, which is what I will do, briefly, for my third point.

Turning first to the Peacebuilding Commission, as we heard from Ambassadors Jinga and Cho, the PBC has become a more flexible and adaptable mechanism. It has expanded its agenda to focus on new countries in a more flexible way, from the Gambia to Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Colombia, as well as on regional situations, such as the Sahel, the Great Lakes and the Lake Chad basin. We also saw its value clearly in the case of Liberia, when the drawdown of the United Nations peace operation was approaching. It brought partners together to respond to requests for action from the Security Council, and thereby helped the Government develop one of the most comprehensive peacebuilding plans we have ever seen.

Its work on the Sahel deserves special note. More than 20 different strategies have been designed for this region, coming not only from Sahel countries themselves but also through comprehensive partnerships. While this level of support is positive, there is also a risk of confusion or duplication. However, the Peacebuilding Commission, along with the Peacebuilding Support Office, is working hard to coordinate and integrate, which includes engagement with the Security Council.

We have also seen exciting things from the Peacebuilding Fund. It has been investing faster and farther than many other funds. It is also trying new ways of working. For example, it has expanded its innovative cross-border programmes, and it has been making great strides when it comes to inclusion: more than 30 per cent of all its funds in 2017 were dedicated to gender and youth initiatives.

Today's gathering is not just a meeting. It is something bigger. When we signed up to the United Nations Charter, we made a promise — to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. We are still far from fulfilling that promise, but we are making at effort to get closer to doing so. This was obvious from the show of support we saw in this very Hall at last month's high-level meeting. And today, in meeting this commitment, we have a chance to make some of our most valuable tools even stronger. Let us take this chance.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea, who will speak in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for 2017.

Mr. Cho Tae-yul (Republic of Korea): I am pleased to be here today in my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for 2017 to present the annual report of the Commission on its eleventh session, as contained in document A/72/721.

The eleventh session marked another important year for the Peacebuilding Commission. In implementing the twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture that were adopted in 2016 (General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)), the Commission undertook a number of activities to assist relevant countries and regions in pursuing their peacebuilding priorities and to enhance coherence in the United Nations. I want to highlight three priority areas that marked the work of the PBC in 2017.

First, with regard to the advisory and bridging role of the PBC, the Commission continued to make efforts aimed at improving the quality of advice it gives to enrich the deliberations of its parent bodies, the General Assembly and Security Council, while strengthening its bridging role among the intergovernmental bodies in pursuit of a coherent, integrated approach to building and sustaining peace. As a result, the interaction and dynamics between the PBC and the Security Council, in particular, are becoming more active, especially with respect to country-specific situations on the agenda of both bodies, such as Burundi, Liberia, the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau.

At the request of the Security Council, the Commission also discussed the Sahel region by using its convening role to assist, as appropriate, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel in mobilizing relevant stakeholders with a view to advancing the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. At the same time, an informal interactive dialogue was held between the Council and the Commission last June to discuss regional peacebuilding challenges in the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin, with the consent of all States of their respective regions.

The Commission also held a joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council last June to focus on the social and economic dimensions of the Sahel. The PBC will continue to engage on the Sahel this year, including at the annual session of the PBC this coming June. We should continue to deliberate on how the Commission can work better with the relevant intergovernmental bodies to bring about a coherent and integrated approach to building and sustaining peace.

Secondly, with regard to partnerships with outside stakeholders, today, many actors, including international financial institutions and the private sector, with their financial resources, technology and expertise, are increasingly showing interest in working with the United Nations, and the Organization should take advantage of this change. As Secretary-General Guterres has pointed out, the world already has the resources to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the only question is how to connect the dots. The United Nations, which has a brand like no other, is best poised to convene the various actors.

In this regard, the key value of the PBC rests in its convening role, and the Commission has continued to strengthen its partnerships with key stakeholders. For instance, in June last year I led a delegation of PBC members to Washington, D.C., where we met with the leadership of the World Bank, including its president, vice-presidents and members of its Executive Board. At the meeting, we discussed ways to enhance our collaboration to better assist the countries and regions being considered by the PBC and promote an institutional partnership between the Commission and the Bank. This partnership was further strengthened during the annual session of the PBC held later that month, when the Commission and the Bank issued a joint statement announcing that they would hold an annual dialogue between the members of PBC and senior representatives of the World Bank, including members of its Executive Board. We should make use of these annual meetings with the Bank to help mobilize resources for the countries supported by the PBC.

In December, building on the good work of my predecessor, Ambassador Kamau, former Permanent Representative of Kenya, I led a delegation of the Commission to Addis Ababa to discuss ways to reinforce cooperation between the Commission and the African Union (AU). The PBC should continue to take advantage of the growing momentum to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the AU, with a view to better assisting the countries being considered by the Commission.

The Commission's annual session in June focused on ways to enhance the partnerships for financing for peace with a range of stakeholders. The participants recognized that adequate financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace requires stronger partnerships and an alignment of financial flows. In this regard, the Secretary-General's call for a quantum leap in support of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) deserves serious consideration by the Commission, not only as an instrument for supporting nationally owned

peacebuilding processes but also as a driver of coherence for United Nations activities.

Thirdly, with regard to the efficiency and flexibility of the PBC, since the adoption of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Commission has been improving its working methods to make them more efficient and flexible. To promote the idea of one PBC, last year the Commission convened meetings on a regular basis for briefings on the work of country-specific configurations by their Chairs, as well as on the activities of the PBF by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. Going beyond the good work in its existing country-specific configurations on Burundi, the Central African Republic, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, the Commission has also expanded its work by considering other countries and regions upon their request in the Organizational Committee.

Most notably, the PBC has been assisting the Gambia at a critical time in its political transition by sustaining international attention to the country after the Security Council ended its deliberations on the situation. As Chair of the PBC, I visited the Gambia in March of last year, together with the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and the Permanent Representative of the Gambia, and followed up on the visit by convening several meetings on the country with the relevant partners.

In addition, for the first time, the Commission deliberated on the situations in the Solomon Islands, Colombia and Sri Lanka, at their request. These meetings illustrated how countries eligible for the PBF can use the PBC as a platform to secure global political support for their peacebuilding priorities, with the countries firmly in the driver's seat. They also contributed to creating synergies between the PBF and PBC, as requested by PBC members.

Such efforts by the Commission to diversify the regions for discussion, which had been focused on Africa, contributed to raising global awareness of the importance of building and sustaining peace. In this regard, the Asian Conference on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, held in Seoul in November last year, which was organized by the Republic of Korea as Chair of the PBC, served as a good opportunity to raise awareness on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Asia and to explore opportunities for partnerships between the PBC and relevant actors in the region.

Finally, the Commission held discussions on thematic issues, such as gender, youth, financing, institution-building and national ownership, which were championed by interested members. We should continue to explore ways for PBC members to actively engage in its work, in particular by providing more practical and tangible support to the countries assisted by the Commission.

All in all, the PBC convened discussions on a range of themes, countries and regions last year. Two messages emerged from this approach. First, building and sustaining peace is important to achieving sustainable development and longer-term stability. Secondly, each country's historical, cultural and socioeconomic context may be unique, but the experiences and lessons learned from one country's experience can be relevant to others. Providing a space where member States can learn from each other's experiences is therefore another important way the Commission can support countries in their efforts to build and sustain peace.

While chairing the PBC last year, I was greatly encouraged and heartened by the strong moral and political support offered to the countries considered by the PBC by its members. In my view, that is one of the greatest added values that the Commission can offer countries undergoing transitions. I hope that, in the coming years, the Commission can continue to provide such assistance, while identifying and implementing practical ways to help these countries achieve their peacebuilding priorities.

I would like to conclude by congratulating Ambassador Jinga, the Permanent Representative of Romania and the current Chair of the PBC, on the excellent work he has done so far, and by thanking the Peacebuilding Support Office for its dedicated support to the Commission. As Vice-Chair of the Commission this year, together with Germany, I remain committed to further strengthening the Commission.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Romania, who will speak in his capacity as the current Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. Jinga (Romania): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Korea, and Ambassador Cho Tae-yul in particular, on the excellent work done as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in 2017. Under the leadership of the Republic of Korea, the Commission made good progress in implementing

the twin resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)) to include the revision of working methods that has improved the Commission's flexibility and responsiveness. Romania intends to continue on the same track.

With the support of the Republic of Korea and Germany as Vice-Chairs of the PBC and with the engagement of all the members of the Commission, I am confident that 2018 will be another significant year of advances. Building on the work accomplished during previous sessions, the Commission currently supports efforts to build and sustain peace at the country-specific and regional level, including by convening relevant key partners from within and outside the United Nations to foster coherence within the United Nations system and with other international, multilateral, bilateral and national partners.

As has already been mentioned, the Sahel region is a clear priority for our work. Last year, as just underscored by my predecessor and you, Mr. President, the Security Council emphasized the importance of the convening role of the PBC in peacebuilding efforts and, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership among the United Nations, the countries of the Sahel and other international and regional partners, with a view to advancing the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

In March, I attended the sixth meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel in Chad, which stressed the importance of a holistic approach to address the multidimensional threats facing the countries of the Sahel region and their people, calling on regional and international partners to act with greater synergy and unity of purpose.

To further those objectives, the Com.nission's annual session on 26 June will focus exclusively on the Sahel. The PBC will bring together member States, representatives of countries of the Sahel, senior officials of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, representatives of regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society organizations. The purpose of this important event will be to discuss ways of mobilizing deeper, shared commitments and partnerships in support of efforts to build and sustain peace in the Sahel, with a focus on the importance of national ownership and the eventual continuation and contribution of women and youth in the quest for longer-term solutions to the root causes of conflict. I look forward to seeing you, Mr. President, together with the Presidents of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, open the meeting.

Partnerships have always been a priority for the PBC and, as I mentioned during my inaugural address to the Commission, we can further explore the opportunity for partnerships, including, where relevant, with the private sector. That is why, one day after the annual session, the PBC will convene a joint event with the Economic and Social Council dedicated to the issue of partnerships in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. At that meeting, we will bring together the role of the PBC in supporting conflict-affected countries, which is on the agenda of the Commission, with the expertise of the Economic and Social Council in building partnerships with the private sector. In fact, we plan to discuss ways in which the private sector could contribute to peacebuilding efforts.

Another important area of work for the Commission is its engagement with the Gambia. At the request of the Government of the Gambia, the PBC is continuing to provide a forum for the country to engage with the international community. A few weeks ago, we convened a high-level meeting chaired by the State Secretary of Romania as Chair of the PBC, attended by the President and the Minister of Finance of the Gambia, the European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, the President of the Economic Community of West African States Commission, the Permanent Observer of the African Union, as well as senior officials of the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the Peacebuilding Support Office. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Gambia to present its peacebuilding priorities ahead of the International Conference for the Gambia, which took place just two days ago in Brussels and demonstrated once again the convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission. In addition to that, the existing country-specific configurations of Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone will continue to do their important work this year.

Today's debate is also about the work of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), an instrument whose relevance and effectiveness have been widely recognized. The Commission is continuing to strengthen

synergies with the Fund. Over the past few years, several countries, including Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, approached the PBC to share their peacebuilding experiences and challenges and to review support received from the PBF in furtherance of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We look forward to continuing with that approach, with a view to raising awareness of peacebuilding experiences around the world and further increasing the visibility of the PBF.

Finally, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the successful holding of the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in April. The engagement shown by Member States during the meeting demonstrated how committed we all are to building and sustaining peace. Resolution 72/276, in particular, adopted by the General Assembly on 26 April 2018, invites relevant United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission, to further advance, explore and consider implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations and options contained in the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Accordingly, the Peacebuilding Commission is considering peacebuilding and sustaining peace in a more pragmatic way. In fact, we are exploring ways for the United Nations to work in a more coherent and effective manner in support of conflict-affected countries under consideration. The Commission has already begun its consideration of these recommendations, and I look forward to working with you, Mr. President, and with other relevant partners in furthering our mutual goals of supporting peacebuilding and sustaining peace initiatives.

Mr. Bonser (Canada): I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Just a few weeks ago, at the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-PV.87), Member States resoundingly reaffirmed their support to sustaining peace and the reform efforts of the Secretary-General. We must now build on this momentum and ensure that, collectively, we continue to drive the implementation of a United Nations system that acts decisively across silos and in partnerships, recognizes the primacy of politics and focuses on achieving better results at the field level, works with national Governments to support the institutions, norms and attitudes that sustain peace, improves its preventive capacities and, ultimately, leaves no one behind.

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) have a critical role to play in driving these changes. As we face a world of increasingly complex challenges, where the capacities of the international system to manage and respond to crises are stretched beyond their limits, the purpose for which the PBC was created has never been more evident.

We thank the Republic of Korea, and Ambassador Cho Tae-yul in particular, for his stewardship as Chair of the PBC in 2017. As others have done, we would like to highlight the work done last year to leverage the PBC's convening and bridging role in holding regional and country-specific discussions concerning situations beyond the five countries on the PBC's formal agenda.

For example, the PBC provided a platform for the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands to share his Government's peacebuilding priorities and request for the assistance of Member States following the successful conclusion of the Regional Assistance Mission to that country. The PBC also had an important role to play in providing a platform for the new Government in the Gambia to share priorities for sustaining peace in the wake of the post-election crisis in 2017. Finally, we commend the efforts made by the PBC to bring the entire United Nations system together in support of the Sahel.

We welcome Ambassador Jinga of Romania, whose proactive and strategic leadership as the current Chair of the PBC has already shown real results in the first few months. We encourage the PBC to diversify its agenda, leverage its inherent flexibility, and deepen its work on addressing the gender dimensions of peacebuilding. We also welcome the collaboration that we have seen between the PBC and the Security Council. The Council has made greater use of the PBC's flexibility and convening role to provide strategic and actionable advice on a range of country and regional situations.

Nowhere has this been more evident than in the PBC's support to the transition in Liberia, where, under Sweden's chairmanship, the PBC supported the development of a peacebuilding plan for Liberia, highlighted capacity gaps within the United Nations country team, and helped to mobilize resources for the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund. We hope that this example can be seen as a model for future United Nations transitions, and we urge the Council members

present here today to continue to involve the PBC in the day-to-day work of the Council.

The annual report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740) recounts another year of innovative action. The Fund has proven its unique ability to drive integration across the United Nations system in the field, respond quickly when opportunities are presented, spur action in politically sensitive environments and take risks. We commend the Fund for exceeding the Secretary-General's 15 per cent target for women's empowerment projects, and we welcome its decision to raise the target to 30 per cent under its new business plan.

We recognize that a more integrated system often includes important roles for us, the Member States, including in how we finance the system. Donors have a key role to play in addressing the fragmentation of financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. By requesting joint analysis and contributing to pooled and unearmarked funds, donors can provide powerful incentives for coordinated and coherent United Nations peacebuilding efforts. We were pleased to see a range of ambitious options on financing put forward in the Secretary-General's report, and look forward to discussing them further.

Finally, we emphasize that sustaining peace cannot be seen as the work of just one part of the architecture of the United Nations. While the PBC, PBF, and the Peacebuilding Support Office have a pivotal role to play, this agenda will fail if it is relegated to the work of one office or one intergovernmental body. There are implementation requirements flowing from the recent Secretary-General's report that must be led from the top and enacted throughout the United Nations system, underpinned by strong incentives for culture change based on collaboration and thinking differently about how to solve problems. It is vital that clear responsibility and accountability for advancing implementation of relevant recommendations is identified.

Sustaining peace is a policy agenda with the potential to have a transformative impact on the effectiveness of the United Nations. It also has the potential to reinforce inclusion as the norm rather than the exception, as you, Mr. President, said so eloquently at the outset today. We have a unique opportunity to make the United Nations more fit for purpose in the modern world and to enhance the ability of the United Nations to deliver on its founding principles.

This is truly a system-wide agenda, and if to fulfil its promise, it will require leadership, engagement and commitment across the United Nations system and among all Member States.

Mr. Duque Estrada Meyer (Brazil): Allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to address the General Assembly during its debate on the annual reports of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/72/721) and Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740). I would like to reiterate Brazil's long-standing support for United Nations peacebuilding efforts and to welcome the important report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on its eleventh session, which was approved by the Organizational Committee of the PBC and reflects the work undertaken by the Commission in 2017.

The twin resolutions adopted in 2016 by the General Assembly and the Security Council on the reform of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016)) reaffirmed the purpose of the Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body, as well as its bridging role among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations, which is to share advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities. Among other points, the twin resolutions also introduced the concept of sustaining peace, granted the PBC more flexible working methods and acknowledged the importance of strong coordination, coherence and cooperation between the Security Council and the Commission.

Last year was therefore marked by the implementation of those important changes. My delegation wishes to thank the excellent work carried out by Ambassador Cho Tae-yul of Korea as the Chair of the PBC during the process. As he just mentioned, we witnessed a series of excellent initiatives carried out under his able chairship. The PBC became more flexible, as was shown in the deliberations on the Gambia, Colombia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka. It reinforced its interaction with the Security Council and used its convening role to assist in mobilizing resources to the Sahel region and supporting the transition in Liberia in the context of the departure of the United Nations Mission in Liberia. The Commission also strengthened its partnerships with different actors, including regional organizations and international institutions, as the establishment of annual meetings with the World Bank exemplifies.

We would also like to express our full confidence in the work of Ambassador Ion Jinga of Romania as the current Chair of the PBC. We are ready to support him in tackling the initiatives that he outlined for this year in his statement to the Assembly today.

It is also important to bear in mind that the existing country-specific configurations continue to bring added value to the PBC. The Chairs of the configurations work hard to closely follow the situations in the field and engage with national stakeholders. In some cases, they also benefit from important historical, cultural and diplomatic ties between the countries that chair the configuration and those that receive their support. For instance, Brazil and Guinea-Bissau are members of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. In addition, Brazil has maintained an embassy in Guinea-Bissau since that country's independence.

Since 2007, as the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau country-specific configuration of the PBC, Brazil has been engaged in supporting the peacebuilding efforts in the country. Among other important initiatives, we actively supported the creation of the Terra Ranka programme and the 2015 Brussels round table, where $1.5 billion was pledged in support of the programme for recovery and development.

More recently, we have been assisting the people of Guinea-Bissau in their efforts to overcome a political impasse. In this regard, we have witnessed important positive developments. President José Mário Vaz appointed Aristides Gomes as the new consensus Prime Minister and confirmed that legislative elections will be held on 18 November. Members of the new Government were also sworn in and a plenary session of the parliament was convened at which the National People's Assembly elected new leadership for the National Electoral Commission and extended its own legislative powers until November.

Brazil will continue to assist the people of Guinea-Bissau in their peacebuilding efforts. One of the most relevant tasks ahead is the preparations for the upcoming elections. To that end, a project for electoral support was signed between the United Nations Development Programme and the country's Government. Nevertheless, the country still needs resources from the international community to properly fund the elections. The Permanent Representative of Brazil intends to visit Guinea-Bissau in the next few months to consult on how the PBC can further support the country, especially during the upcoming elections.

I would like to welcome the important facts outlined by the Secretary-General in his most recent report on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). As stated in the document, in 2017 the PBF received the highest level of annual contributions since it was originally capitalized and approved a record amount of more than $157 million in projects for 31 countries. In this regard, I would also like to welcome the fact that, following requests from their respective Governments, the Secretary-General declared three new countries eligible for funding in 2017 — Chad, Colombia and Solomon Islands.

These positive developments regarding the funding of the PBF should be sustained. We have to take into account the need for a quantum leap, as the Secretary-General put it, in the financing of the Fund, and to consider his call to increase its funding to $500 million per year. This will enable us to fully take advantage of the singular catalytic effect of the PBF and its quick-response capacity in supporting peacebuilding and enhancing prevention.

There are different ways to contribute to these efforts. The proposals for financing United Nations peacebuilding activities already presented in the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707) deserve an in-depth analysis in order to ensure that they receive more adequate, predictable and sustainable funding. More discussions are also expected in this regard, as mandated by the procedural resolution 72/276 adopted during the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in April (see A/72/PV.87).

Mr. Djani (Indonesia): Indonesia thanks you, Mr. President, for convening this very important joint debate. I would also like to thank the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for their valuable stewardship and efforts.

As the number of conflicts has risen in recent years, with an unprecedented 65 million people displaced, the people of the world look to the United Nations to live up to its promise to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. The sustaining peace agenda, proclaimed jointly by the General Assembly and the Security Council (resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016)), could not have been agreed on at a more opportune time. While the challenges are many, Indonesia

welcomes the efforts of Members States to implement these joint resolutions.

Sustaining peace demands that all United Nations and non-United Nations stakeholders pool their best efforts to advance every stage of the peace continuum, from prevention to long-term development. A strong and well-supported link between sustaining peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also crucial, as it enhances the prospects for fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, I would like to highlight several points that are Indonesia is focusing attention on in its efforts aimed at further advancing peacebuilding activities.

First, Indonesia underscores the Peacebuilding Commission's vital facilitation of intergovernmental and cross-pillar coherence, along with its advisory role to interested countries and the Security Council. Indonesia stresses the importance of ensuring that the PBC implements the recommendations and options in the Secretary-General's latest report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707). We commend the PBC's important work in supporting the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Liberia, and we are proud and glad that Indonesia's peacekeepers were among the last to leave that country. In the situation of the Central African Republic, we emphasize, among other things, the need for synergy between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. For Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, the Commission, with support from other United Nations and regional partners, could do more to support prevention efforts as well as mechanisms that address theroot causes of conflict.

Secondly, we agree that more should be done to capitalize on the PBC's role in advocacy and mobilizing resources. Accordingly, since the percentage of official development assistance that goes to conflict-affected countries fell from 40 per cent in 2005 to 28 per cent in 2015, and the amount earmarked for peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries shrank from 18 per cent of official development assistance in 2009 to 13 per cent in 2015, the PBC and the Peacebuilding Fund should further explore how to enable the mobilization of needed financial and other resources for affected countries. It could also focus on the wider areas of education, health, trade, domestic and international investment, particularly for self-sustainable micro-finance, expansion of the digital economy, and support for small and medium enterprises, along with innovative partnerships and access to private equity funds. We must invigorate the economy and create an environment of stability, trust, support, growth and development. We also see considerable merit in the options available for increasing and raising the priority of funding for United Nations peacebuilding, as set forth in the Secretary-General's report.

Indonesia will continue to enable the creation of tangible paths for generating resources for conflict-affected countries. We believe that the outcome of the first PBC policy task force on private-sector partnerships, facilitated by Indonesia during the initial years of the PBC, remains valid. Together with the delegation of Norway, we will also continue to advance, the issue of financing for peacebuilding.

Thirdly, Indonesia underlines the importance of the Peacebuilding Fund and appreciates how it is administered. It is worth noting that the funding approved in 2017, at more than $157 million the highest amount ever, reaffirms the massive challenge of supplying needed assistance. As it has in the past, Indonesia will continue to both support and contribute to the Fund. We concur with the policy that promotes spending funds across the sustaining peace spectrum, in its prevention, escalation and post-conflict phases. We also welcome the Fund's efforts aimed at improving system-wide coherence and instituting a benchmark of a minimum of 82 per cent of projects being administered as joint programmes. We would like to encourage more community-based monitoring and video dialogue between the PBC and the recipient communities of the Fund's projects.

Fourthly, Indonesia stresses the benefits of South-South and triangular cooperation for peacebuilding. We are pleased to learn that the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation has implemented integrated peace and development approaches in Burundi, Chad, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Timor-Leste, with support from the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Volunteers and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We note the Secretary-General's encouragement to the United Nations senior leadership to further explore South-South and triangular cooperation and hope to see more concrete projects based on this model.

Finally, my delegation stresses the roles of the PBC as an advisory body to the Security Council and as a hinge with other United Nations organs. As better integration between peace and security, development,

human rights and humanitarian pillars are pursued at the United Nations, not least through the restructuring of the peace and security pillar, the vast experience, comparative strengths and expertise of the Commission will be extremely important. For its part, Indonesia will continue its efforts aimed at contributing to peacebuilding and sustaining peace as a collaborative and fully owned undertaking with meaningful impact on the ground. We will continue to contribute not only to peacekeeping through troop deployment, as we have done in the past, but also to peacebuilding, recovery and long-term development. For us, the peace continuum should not be a mere mantra but should be pursued concretely by all States Members of the United Nations.

Ms. Lodhi (Pakistan): I would like to start by commending the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Ion Jinga, for his sterling contribution to the work of the Commission. We also appreciate the work done by Ambassador Cho Tae-yul as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2017.

The report before us provides an instructive overview of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission during its eleventh session, along with useful, action-oriented recommendations (A/72/721). It highlights the Commission's engagements on country-specific, regional and thematic issues and the dialogue on its working methods throughout the past year, with the aim of enhancing coherence in the areas of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The 2016 peacebuilding architecture review injected new momentum into our discussions on sustaining peace and into the work of the Peacebuilding Commission itself. It raised our expectations for the role and potential of the Peacebuilding Commission. We expect the Commission to reclaim its position as an effective intergovernmental advisory body supporting peace efforts in conflict-afflicted countries.

Even though its mandate is often advisory in nature, we feel that the Peacebuilding Commission has a unique role to play in advancing intergovernmental coherence. We have seen it deal with a wide array of issues, from cross-border and regional problems in the Great Lakes region and the Sahel, to support for the transition of a peace operation in Liberia, to the adoption of a gender strategy. Member States have also used the platform of the Commission for constructive discussions on Burkina Faso, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia and Sri Lanka at the initiative of the countries concerned.

Pakistan has seen first-hand the outcome of the work undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission, both as a member of the Commission and as one of the world's top troop contributors in the countries where much of this work takes place. This experience reinforces our belief that strengthening the peacebuilding architecture and advancing the peacebuilding agenda are not just important, they are urgent as well. Today, with our discourse on peacekeeping shifting towards the need for political solutions and exit strategies for peacekeeping missions, we feel there are two areas where the Peacebuilding Commission can provide the vital advisory link: first, in the pursuit of the goal of the primacy of politics, and secondly, during transitions and after the withdrawal of peacekeeping missions. Let me briefly elaborate on those two points.

The Secretary-General's action plan for peacekeeping places due and appropriate emphasis on the need for political solutions to support peacekeeping. In that context, the Peacebuilding Commission can advise the Security Council on socioeconomic and longer-term development issues that could encourage those countries to find political settlements and solutions. The Commission's convening role in bringing together the United Nations, relevant regional organizations and international financial institutions with the core countries of the region can help to build up a vast reservoir of information that would be pertinent and current.

Secondly, the Peacebuilding Commission can be a critical player during, and following, peace operation transitions, especially from a peace operation to a United Nations country team. With examples such as the drawdown of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti last year and the United Nations Mission in Liberia earlier this year, we are seeing peacekeeping missions evolve into the peacebuilding phase. Our collective aim should be to prevent any relapse into conflict, through capacity-building and the extension of State authority. The Commission must become the medium through which the views and perspectives of all relevant actors are factored into Security Council decisions during those critical transitions. That would ensure that those decisions are grounded in country-level realities.

Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740) under discussion today, it seems to present a more optimistic financial picture than we have seen in the past. We hope that the role of the Peacebuilding Fund as a financial catalyst for peacebuilding will be enhanced in the coming years. We believe that effective and long-term peacebuilding processes have to be based on an alignment of priorities and resources. In order to maintain the promise of sustaining peace, it is essential to ensure that adequate, predictable and sustained financing is available to support peacebuilding at the country level. We would like to point out that in his report on sustaining peace (A/72/707), the Secretary-General proposed some innovative ideas for providing predictable financing for peacebuilding and strengthening the Peacebuilding Fund. We are looking forward hopefully to detailed discussions on the options that have been presented.

Finally, with an increased focus on sustaining peace, it is important to remember that this cannot happen without national political leadership, the restoration of trust between citizens and their institutions and the painstaking work of transforming political processes so that conflict management within society can take place without violence. Lasting peace cannot be imposed from outside. It can only be built from within. The Peacebuilding Commission must rise to the challenge of playing an effective advisory role for the Security Council on peace and security issues and, of course, for the General Assembly on larger development and peacebuilding issues.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/72/740), which shows that the Peacebuilding Commission is a platform that strengthens coherence and joint work for peacebuilding within and outside the United Nations. The report reflects the continuing work of the Organization and its Member States based on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and the twin resolutions (resolution 72/276 and Security Council resolution 2413 (2018)) that we adopted in April, which seek to increase the efficiency and flexibility that the Peacebuilding Commission needs in order to give genuine support to peacebuilding and the sustainability of peace. That task, which is difficult because it involves modernizing the operation and work of a body designed to be a bridge between all the relevant actors and to advise them on post-conflict strategies, has been echoed in the leadership shown both by its outgoing Chair, Ambassador Cho Tae-yul of the Republic of Korea, and the current Chair, Ambassador Ion Jinga of Romania, to whom my country expresses its appreciation.

For Colombia, as a member of the Commission, our greatest desire is to see peacebuilding processes succeed. The Secretary-General's proposal for reforming the peace and security pillar is on the right track for our efforts to achieve a sustainable and lasting global peace on the basis of a structure designed to avoid fragmentation. We now have a mandate that is crucial to enabling us to continue to make progress in the necessary modernization and effective functioning of the United Nations, not only in order to maintain international peace and security but also to prevent conflict and build lasting peace that can create space for our peoples to grow and develop in a more stable global environment.

As the report mentions, and as a number of delegations acknowledged this morning, Colombia is an example of the work that both the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund can support at critical moments by securing resources and strategic partners in order to carry out projects that have immediate impact on the ground once a peace agreement is signed. As President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón pointed out here during the high-level meeting that you convened in April, Mr. President, "Building peace is like building a cathedral — it is a lengthy and complex process that takes time, brick by brick" (see A/72/PV.83). Every contribution is important.

In conclusion, I should not omit to mention that the mobilization of resources by both the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund facilitates the participation and active involvement of the private sector and civil society, not only as sources for sharing good practices but also as direct participants in peacebuilding processes and providers of resources for the growth and sustainability of a country that is finally headed towards peace. I thank the Assembly for its continued vote of confidence and support.

Mr. Schulz (Germany): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's meeting. Over the past few years, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund have proven their value for United Nations peace efforts in support of sustaining peace and have confirmed their role within the work of the United Nations for peace and security. That is why we welcome

and support the strengthening of the peacebuilding architecture through the United Nations reform process. Prevention and peacebuilding must be a joint endeavour, coordinated effort and common objective for all with a view to sustaining peace. We welcome the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/72/721) and the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740), as they demonstrate that the work of the Commission and the Fund makes a real difference on the ground.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and his team for their work on sustaining peace and peacebuilding, as well as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea for his leadership and outstanding work during his chairship in 2017 and the Permanent Representative of Romania for continuing on that path in 2018. As one of the Vice-Chairs of the Peacebuilding Commission and a member of the Organizational Committee, Germany is fully committed to supporting the chairship and further strengthening the Peacebuilding Commission.

Whether we are talking about country teams, political or peacekeeping missions, prevention is the foundation of building and sustaining peace. The joint United Nations-World Bank report *Pathways for Peace* has delivered further evidence that prevention works. A shift from reaction towards prevention can save lives and reduce costs if we act early, inclusively and collectively. The Peacebuilding Commission can be the political forum for putting prevention into practice by convening relevant stakeholders and proposing targeted efforts to tackle root causes and prevent the outbreak of crises. We will continue to encourage work on country and regional situations in the Organizational Committee, while supporting national ownership and regional leadership.

We cannot afford to waste scarce resources, to duplicate or triplicate efforts within the United Nations system or to be lacking in coherence, especially as Member States. We are members of the General Assembly, and some of us are also members of the Human Rights Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council. We should be seeking synergies, wherever they may be, in order to be able to sustain peace in a comprehensive manner. We should ensure that the Peacebuilding Commission's advisory role to the Security Council is strengthened and that it can provide input to the Security Council as well as follow up on the peacebuilding aspects of the many crisis situations.

As Member States, we should also ensure that the current positive momentum for sustaining peace, especially in the wake of the recent high-level meeting in April (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87) and the ongoing reforms, can be parlayed into closer and more concrete cooperation with the Security Council on cross-cutting issues such as conflict prevention, as well as during the drafting of peacekeeping mandates, in order to help ensure coherence with peacebuilding efforts. In its presidential statement of 14 May (S/PRST/2018/10), the Council emphasized the importance of drawing on the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as when major agreements relating to United Nations mission mandates and transitions are agreed on by the United Nations, national Governments and authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

In order for the Commission to be fit for that purpose, the Peacebuilding Support Office must fulfil its pivotal role and support the Commission in these endeavours. It is already doing extraordinary work regarding the Peacebuilding Fund. As Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said at the high-level meeting, modern peace policy must be funded in the right way. Germany has already responded to the Secretary-General's quantum leap and has more than tripled its budget for crisis prevention, stabilization and humanitarian aid, to €2.5 billion in 2017. We also contributed $26 million to the Peacebuilding Fund and will make another substantial contribution this year. We encourage others to step up their support as well.

Mr. Allen (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom is a proud member of the Peacebuilding Commission. We are pleased not only that it has become a more flexible and agile body but that it has raised its level of ambition and delivers real impact.

We see three opportunities for accelerated progress. First, the Peacebuilding Commission's overall goal should be to help drive implementation of the sustaining peace agenda. In every country and region it focuses on, it should be holding United Nations actors to account for how they work with one another to address drivers of conflict. For example, it is fitting that the Sahel is now firmly on the Commission's agenda. There are few other contexts where the Commission's supportive scrutiny is so needed or in such demand. But looking inwards is not enough. As representatives

of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, top donors and troop contributors, we should be doing much more to ensure that sustaining peace is understood and advanced through the constituencies we represent.

Secondly, the Commission must become a forum in which the United Nations is able to engage and form partnerships with regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society. We should not pretend that the United Nations can do everything, but it does have the legitimacy to help ensure that the wider international community gets everything done. The Commission's successful engagement with West African countries in the past year shows just how important international coherence and partnership are.

Thirdly, we urge the Peacebuilding Commission to continue developing practices on how best to assist the Security Council with countries going through peacekeeping transitions. We have all witnessed how Liberia, the United States and Sweden have worked together to help manage the United Nations Mission in Liberia's transition. A peacebuilding plan with broad and inclusive ownership successfully guided the country and its partners through a peacekeeping transition during the tricky time of a political transition. While every context is different, of course, there are positive lessons to draw on in future.

Since its establishment in 2006, we have committed more than $170 million to the Peacebuilding Fund, making the United Kingdom its biggest cumulative donor to date. We are delighted to see others making larger and larger commitments on an annual basis. Healthy competition for the top spot is something we welcome, and it is easy to see why others are making those commitments. The Fund has driven United Nations coherence, supporting joint analysis and programming in Mali, for example. It has led the way on conflict prevention, including by dedicating resources to women's empowerment. There are United Nations partnerships that would not exist without the Fund, especially with the World Bank, in a context as challenging as Yemen, for example. And the Fund has invested where others have not, first filling the gap and then convincing others to invest at scale, as we saw in Colombia. So it is not surprising that Governments that have received support from the Peacebuilding Fund ask for more and others that have not yet done so are interested.

Coherence, prevention, partnerships, catalytic investment — all of this is clearly in line with the Secretary-General's vision for sustaining peace. The United Kingdom supports his desire to see the Peacebuilding Fund grow, but on its own, a quantum leap in the number and size of peacebuilding projects will not deliver the scale of change we want to see. Greater resources must be accompanied by an ambitious plan owned across the leadership of the United Nations to deliver systemic change in line with the vision set out in the sustaining peace resolutions.

The Member States have given the United Nations system a green light to advance and implement the sustaining peace agenda. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund are integral to making progress; let us all play our role in making that happen.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China would like to thank the Chair of the eleventh session of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Cho Tae-yul, Permanent Representative of South Korea, for presenting the report of the Peacebuilding Commission's eleventh session (A/72/721). We commend the Commission's work and achievements in the past year. We would also like to congratulate the Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Ion Jinga, on his appointment as Chair of the Commission's twelfth session.

The United Nations peacebuilding system was set up in 2006. Since then, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office, as its main bodies, have played their respective roles and collaborated closely in order to implement their mandates under the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and to coordinate the international community's efforts to support reconstruction in post-conflict countries. There have been positive results. In April, during its seventy-second session, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87). Representatives from all countries had in-depth discussions on the peacebuilding work of the United Nations and agreed to continue research on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

I would like to make the following points about the peacebuilding work of the United Nations. First, it should uphold the principle of the ownership of the countries concerned, and the main drivers of peacebuilding

work should be the countries concerned. In order to realize lasting peace, stability and development in post-conflict countries, their own efforts are key. The United Nations and other peacebuilding partners should uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, respect the ownership of the countries concerned and provide constructive assistance based on the wishes and specific requirements of those countries.

Secondly, peacebuilding work should be based on the realities on the ground. Countries have different national situations and are at different levels of development. The focus, planning and methods of peacebuilding should also vary. The international community should base its efforts on the situations of the countries concerned in developing peacebuilding work plans, with an emphasis on enhancing the ability of the countries concerned to realize self-sustaining development. Strengthening political security and building development capacity should be the overall goal, so that the effects of the international community's assistance are maximized through their alignment with the actual needs of the countries concerned.

Thirdly, peacebuilding work should enhance coordination and efficiency. There are many parties to peacebuilding work, including the Governments and relevant stakeholders of the countries concerned, regional organizations, the United Nations and international financial organizations, as well as other international entities and their specialized agencies. The United Nations should play its role as a platform and give full play to the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in strengthening coordination between all parties so as to complement each other's work and avoid duplication and wasted resources.

Fourthly, peacebuilding work should recognize the importance of the role of regional partners. The Peacebuilding Commission and its country-specific configurations should improve their communication with regional and subregional organizations. Peacebuilding programmes for relevant countries should be aligned with the strategies of those countries and regions so as to create synergies. The United Nations, and the international community as a whole, should support the African Union in implementing its Agenda 2063 and the African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap 2016-2020, with a view to helping Africa realize lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

China is actively committed to promoting global peace and development and is ready to share development opportunities and achievements with other countries, while providing more public goods in order to realize world peace, stability, development and prosperity. We are ready to work with all other countries to build a community with a shared future for humankind in order to make greater contributions to maintaining world peace and promoting common development.

Mr. Brown (Liberia): We thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/72/740). Liberia would also like to express its appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its leadership of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2017. We also recognize the excellent leadership of Romania as the current Chair. I would like to make the following points today.

Liberia agrees that the Peacebuilding Fund is proving a useful and important tool in our pursuit of an effective paradigm for sustaining peace and preventing conflict. We must unquestionably continue to explore creative ways by which we can continue to invest in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. The Peacebuilding Fund cannot be a substitute for that. It is common sense. What we know is that thanks to its flexibility, the Peacebuilding Fund can assist in quick-impact interventions across diverse issues related to peacebuilding. It is also important to note that it has shown that it is able to bring together partners and important national stakeholders in the inclusive process of working together, thereby ensuring quick wins for all and continued commitments by all stakeholders to the overall peace consolidation effort.

That is why Liberia is heartened by the reported significant progress in contributions, which have put the Fund back on track to meet its targets. As we strive to meet those targets, we again caution that the Peacebuilding Fund should not be used or perceived as a substitute for development assistance or other needed support. We recognize the importance of ensuring that every Member State continues to be responsible for its own development. It is also important to consider that the flexibility of the Fund, which makes it a significant tool for intervention, should also extend to the ability of the Fund's governance to adjust to changing national priorities without compromising transparency and accountability on the ground. Liberia is pleased to be a model that proves that the Peacebuilding Fund actually works. In this regard, we remain committed to our peacebuilding plan and look to continue working with

the Commission, the Fund and all of our partners and stakeholders to meet the important objectives contained in the plan.

Finally, thanks to the Fund and the support of our many partners, coupled with the resilience of our people, Liberia continues to work to consolidate its peace, deepen its democracy and spread the fruits of security throughout our region. We thank all of the contributors to the Peacebuilding Fund, along with the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General for their ongoing leadership. In conclusion, we would also like to thank our development partners for their continued understanding and support of Liberia.

Mr. Bayyapu (India): We thank the Republic of Korea and Romania for their contributions. Our joint debate today is taking place exactly a month after your hosting of the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87), Mr. President, which reflected the growing international recognition of the broader concept of sustaining peace and the comprehensive nature of the issues involved. The adoption of resolution 72/276 by consensus during the meeting demonstrated our collective commitment to moving forward on issues related to the peacebuilding architecture. We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707), which was also a focus of the high-level meeting. His report on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740) gives a good overview of the Fund's situation and the projects it has undertaken.

Today's annual debate offers us an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved, as well as to point to where we need to go next. We welcome the efforts undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) through a number of activities to support countries and regions in their peacebuilding priorities and enhance coherence across the United Nations system. Its efforts to expand and strengthen its support to various countries, including Solomon Islands, Colombia and Sri Lanka, and various regions, such as the Sahel, the Lake Chad basin and the Great Lakes, in addition to its five country-specific configurations, are notable.

We welcome the efforts to build partnerships with stakeholders within and outside the United Nations, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other international financial institutions. The PBC's role as a bridge between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council is an important one and should be strengthened. We also welcome the Commission's efforts in holding deliberations on thematic issues, including those of gender, youth, financing, institution-building and national ownership.

Mr. Llorentty Soliz (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Building peace and prosperity for all remains a major objective for the international community. Despite the growing attention to it, the concept of peacebuilding that expanded its focus to post-conflict situations and led to the establishment of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture around a decade ago continues to struggle, owing to a lack of adequate funding, which betrays a lack of genuine political will. The Secretary-General's report makes several useful suggestions about how to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system in supporting Member State-led efforts, strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders and ensuring the predictable and sustainable funding of peacebuilding activities through the Peacebuilding Fund.

We note that during the past year the Peacebuilding Fund supported projects in 31 countries, including the six country-specific configurations that were on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. While the high donor contributions to the Fund in 2017 were a clear sign of confidence in United Nations peacebuilding activities, the funds available for peacebuilding efforts do not amount to even 1 per cent of the annual United Nations peacekeeping budget. In that context, we welcome the specific financing options presented by the Secretary-General in his report on the Fund, which should be given serious consideration if we are to address the current funding levels, which remain very inadequate. The fact that more than one third of the funds were allocated to support gender equality and women's empowerment during 2017 is worth noting. The Fund's contribution to United Nations efforts to design and implement peacebuilding programmes that prioritize the inclusion, participation and leadership of young people, its cross-border efforts and its partnerships with regional organizations and other multilateral funds are positive steps.

The concept of sustaining peace requires the engagement of all the pillars of the United Nations. The efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen operational and policy coherence and improved capacity

across the system should be supported. As a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception, India looks forward to working with all partners in playing a constructive role to pursue the objective of achieving peace and prosperity for our peoples. We look forward to engaging actively with partners during the upcoming annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission next month.

Mr. Escalante Hasbún (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would first like to thank the President for convening this meeting to discuss the report of the eleventh session of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/72/721), as well as the annual report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740).

My country aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Romania in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, of which we are a member. We also commend the Republic of Korea for its work as Chair during 2017.

For El Salvador, peacebuilding processes should be a fundamental part of the work of the United Nations in promoting peace and sustainable development. As we said in the recent high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87) in April, peacebuilding is not just a transitory stage for a State but rather a permanent task. That is because it involves not only ending an armed conflict but building the public institutions and developing the collective conscience among its citizens that will give it a firm foundation. We also welcome steps designed to consolidate peace, especially those linked to the prevention of conflicts.

My delegation would like to highlight the importance of the thematic priorities that the work of the Commission focused on in 2017 and that are described in the report, particularly those related to national ownership, where the leadership of countries involved in peacebuilding efforts becomes essential for success. This also applies to gender and youth, as sustainable peace cannot be achieved without the participation of women and young people on the ground and in decision-making, as established in Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 2250 (2015). This is based on the peaceful and constructive involvement of young people, and young women in particular, from the earliest stages of prevention, crisis resolution, peacebuilding and consolidation, all of which reduce the likelihood of relapses into violent conflict.

Financing is also crucial, given that innovative financing can meet its objectives only if it is accompanied by the incorporation of new actors and partnership alliances that lead to genuine commitments, including by the host country.

Finally, institution-building, which we view as being closely linked to Sustainable Development Goal 16, is an important hinge between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustaining peace agenda.

We also want to support and highlight the thematic and regional extension of the Commission's work throughout 2017 through various forms of interaction with countries not on its agenda, by means of coordination and at the express request of countries that presented specific peacebuilding cases, such as Colombia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, among others. We therefore support the actions described in section III of the report, specifically those related to building a more flexible Peacebuilding Commission based on the working methods included in the annex.

Turning to the report on the Peacebuilding Fund, we would first like to welcome the Fund's success and the confidence that the international community has in it, reflected in the highest level of annual contributions since its establishment in 2006. El Salvador was one of the 31 countries that benefited directly from the Fund in 2017 and one of the 12 countries where the five cross-border initiatives have been initiated, in our case together with our brother countries of Honduras and Guatemala. We believe that it is important that this kind of experience be taken advantage of at the highest possible level, by exchanging experiences and benefiting from the Fund's flexibility in order to help cover the most pressing needs in various countries under various implementation formats. It is also important to highlight the necessity of ensuring the effective implementation of the projects approved by the Fund, as they may lose coherence if they are not applied in time.

Based on the content of both reports, and looking at their follow-up in 2018 under the leadership of Romania, we would like to conclude with some specific comments. El Salvador will continue to support the strengthened role of the Peacebuilding Commission through an expansion of the dimension of sustainable peace and a broad concept of peacebuilding, as established in the 2016 twin resolutions of the Assembly

and the Security Council (resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016), respectively) with a view to the conclusion of the discussions on the peacebuilding architecture in 2020. El Salvador also supports discussions within the Peacebuilding Commission as a follow-up to resolution 72/276, adopted during the high-level meeting on sustainable peace, to consider the implementation of the recommendations, including those regarding financing, in the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/72/707.

In the context of the current discussions in the Fifth Committee, El Salvador supports the proposals regarding the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund related to the process of restructuring the peace and security pillar (A/72/772). We hope that they will strengthen the pivotal role that we hope the Peacebuilding Commission will play fully and catalyse an even broader vision of sustainable peace and conflict prevention, in close connection with the promotion of sustainable development.

Finally, El Salvador thanks the Peacebuilding Fund for its support in the projects described in its annual report, which are executed through country teams on the ground. In the near future, we hope to continue working together with it to ensure a positive impact on the areas identified for action.

Mr. Faati (Gambia): My delegation would like to thank the President for convening this joint debate on agenda items 30, 65 and 111 — on the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/72/721), on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and on the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740).

The Gambia has come a long way since its democratic transition from the political crisis of December 2016. Today it is enjoying peace and stability with the support and solidarity of the United Nations and our bilateral and regional partners. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Peacebuilding Support Office played a critical role in supporting a peaceful and democratic transition in the Gambia. I also want to commend the Peacebuilding Support Office for its strong partnership and ongoing support for our peacebuilding efforts. Through policy advice and immediate financial support, we were able to embark on programmes for transitional justice, the rule of law and security-sector reform. We are now building and consolidating the peace we have earned.

Two days ago, the Gambia and the European Union, with the participation of our bilateral, multilateral and regional partners, convened a successful donor round table in Brussels. We thank our partners for their pledges of support and commitment to the Gambia's long-term development. The Peacebuilding Commission made a substantial financial commitment to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Gambia at the Brussels conference. We sincerely thank Ambassador Cho for his outstanding leadership and the PBC for its commitment to peacebuilding in the Gambia. We are grateful for this generosity from the Peacebuilding Fund. We also join the call for more resources to be directed to the Fund, as it helps vulnerable societies overcome the challenges of conflict.

My delegation would also like to commend you, Mr. President, for convening the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace last month (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87). It is our hope that the conclusions of that meeting will contribute greatly to our collective push for peace and security in the various conflict situations around the world. For us in the Gambia, our new national development plan is built around our need to consolidate peace and promote democracy, good governance and respect for the rule of law. Our overarching goal is to achieve economic growth and sustainable development for our people in a peaceful and stable environment.

My delegation has learned useful lessons from its engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office, and the critical support they provide through the Peacebuilding Fund. The early mobilization and timely intervention of the United Nations and the PBC made a critical difference in the support they provided to our new Government during the crucial early stages of the country's political transition. By responding to the specific needs of the Government, a platform for national ownership was created. The engagement with regional actors, including the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, was critical to finding the right partners for solving key transitional challenges. It also enabled burden-sharing and better coordination between the Government and the various actors.

As we consolidate our democratic gains, we will continue to count on the support of the United Nations and its peacebuilding architecture as partners for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We will also continue to call on our bilateral, multilateral and

regional partners to support our national development plan, which will usher in a new era of sustainable development, democratic governance, respect for the rule of law and durable peace. The critical and transformative work carried out by the United Nations peacebuilding architecture deserves more support from all Member States and partners. Sustaining peace over the long haul is the business of all, and the United Nations has a central role in that regard.

Mr. Lambertini (Italy): At the outset, I would like to thank the President for convening this debate dedicated to the report of the Peacebuilding Commission at its eleventh session (A/72/721) and the Secretary-General's latest report on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740). The two reports demonstrate once again the key role that the Commission and the Fund play within the United Nations system, thanks to their convening and bridging functions between the different dimensions of the United Nations entities and activities, as well as their capacity to integrate a country-specific approach with regional and cross-cutting perspectives.

As a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2017, we had the opportunity to witness the important added value of the Commission and its significant contribution to the daily work of the Security Council. That has also been possible thanks to Ambassador Cho, whose leadership Italy would like to commend. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the current Chair, Ambassador Jinga. As a current member of the Commission, Italy affirms its full support to him in accomplishing the objectives of his mandate. At the same time, the Peacebuilding Fund has proved to be an unparalleled tool for addressing multiple challenges in a rapid and meaningful way, which is why Italy has increased its financial contribution to it over the past two years.

Last month, during the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87), the strengthening of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund was repeatedly referred to as an essential factor in realizing the peace continuum enshrined in the concept of sustaining peace. Italy reaffirms its strong support to the Secretary-General's efforts to put his vision on sustaining peace into practice, linking prevention and mediation and promoting and respecting human rights and development in a coherent and comprehensive vision for peace, security and economic and social growth. We stress the importance of ensuring predictable and sustainable financing for the sustaining peace agenda. Italy would also like to welcome the important role that the Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office are called to play in the implementation of the sustaining peace agenda.

Ms. Grignon (Kenya): It is a great pleasure to be here today. I would like to commend the Republic of Korea for steering a very successful eleventh session of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and presenting a detailed report on the Commission's achievements during the session (A/72/721). I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Jinga of Romania on his elevation to chair the PBC during the current session and commend him for the manner in which he is steering its work. I also want to recognize and thank Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, and his team for their commitment to the work of the PBC.

The Peacebuilding Commission's annual report, under consideration today, reflects the progressive work accomplished last year during its eleventh session. Kenya is proud to have served as a Vice-Chair of the Commission during that period. In a way, it was a consolidation of the tenth session, during which Kenya served as Chair at the conclusion of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in April 2016. The outcome of the review guided the eleventh session in its efforts to implement the recommendations in the related twin resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council (resolutions 72/276 and 2413 (2018), respectively). We hope that the recommendations in the annual report will be integrated into the Secretary-General's prevention and reform agendas and help inform the 2020 review of the peacebuilding architecture.

During the eleventh session, the Commission marked progress in various priority areas for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Today I will focus on two of those priorities and offer some suggestions on how they could be carried forward.

First, with regard to financing, throughout its eleventh session, the PBC underscored the importance of predictable financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace initiatives. As outlined in the annual report, the session focused on the role of partnerships for financing for peace. As part of the Commission's flexible working methods, it continued to provide a platform where countries that are beneficiaries

of the Peacebuilding Fund but not formally on the Commission's agenda, including Colombia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, presented their peacebuilding experiences and challenges. My delegation supports the call of the Secretary-General for a quantum leap in support for the Peacebuilding Fund. The Fund has proved to be an important and flexible tool for supporting nationally owned peacebuilding processes, and it acts as a financial catalyst for longer-term peacebuilding efforts that bring together various United Nations agencies and funds.

Kenya attaches great importance to peace operations and is a major participant in peace support efforts both regionally and internationally. Our contribution to peace support operations in the region covers the entire peace continuum from prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping to peacebuilding and long-term development, including national recovery and national peacebuilding efforts. We are well aware that all such efforts require proper funding to realize. The discussions surrounding conflict prevention, peace operations, sustaining peace and peacebuilding must therefore be backed up with concrete measures for achieving adequate and predictable financing. Regrettably, the PBC's convening and resource-mobilization capabilities remain underutilized. We can do more to further engage with the Secretary-General with regard to his proposals for financial options, including by listening to the views of Member States and the various United Nations agencies on ways to improve financing. We still believe that assessed contributions for sustaining peace remain the optimal financing option.

Secondly, with regard to partnerships, the PBC strengthened its partnerships with key actors and stakeholders such as the World Bank and the African Union, as noted in the annual report. Last year the Kenyan delegation participated in the PBC delegation to Washington, D.C., in order to exchange ideas on sustaining peace with the leadership of the World Bank, including its President, Vice-Presidents and members of the Executive Board. We also participated as part of the PBC's delegation to Addis Ababa in December 2017 to discuss ways to enhance the cooperation between the Commission and the African Union. We welcome the memorandum of understanding signed by Ambassador Chergui, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, and Mr. Fernandez-Taranco, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, for providing a framework for strengthening cooperation in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in Africa. We also took part in the Asian Conference on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention in Seoul in November of last year.

All of this was part of the work of building strategic and meaningful partnerships between the Commission and key actors and stakeholders, thereby ensuring the genuine participation of national Governments based on the principle of national ownership, which is central to the success of sustaining peace. We believe that it will help to enhance coherence and collaboration across the peace and security pillar, which in turn will support peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. The integration of those frameworks and initiatives into the work of the Commission will ensure an integrated approach to mobilizing resources from the relevant stakeholders, including development partners.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to an even stronger, results-oriented collaboration between the PBC, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, particularly in the implementation process of resolutions pertaining to the peacebuilding architecture, Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security and 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, and the various General Assembly resolutions pertaining to sustaining peace. It is indeed through sustainable financing and strengthened partnerships that the Commission can be a viable link between the three pillars of the United Nations system and produce demonstrable results.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Peacebuilding Support Office for its continued dedication to ensuring that the work of the Commission remains relevant and integrated into the work of the wider United Nations system.

Ms. Schoulgin Nyoni (Sweden): I am very pleased to be here at the annual debate on this topic. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the facilitators, as well as all of us, the members of the General Assembly, on the adoption of resolution 72/276, on sustaining peace. It is truly a remarkable achievement and one that will not only help enhance the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) but also strengthen the collective ability of the entire United Nations system to sustain peace. Sweden is eager to see determined action to take sustaining peace forward, as mandated by the relevant resolutions.

The PBC has an important role in the reform process. The rest of the system will continue to look to our Commission as a champion of the sustaining peace agenda. The PBC is a unique structure at the United Nations and is a flexible body. We welcome the important steps it has taken to improve its working methods in recent years and the efforts of Member States and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) to make it more accessible, thereby striving to enhance the relevance of our work, broaden its scope and reach and improve the accountability of the Commission. That includes adopting more transparent and strategic working methods, a more flexible agenda and increasing inclusivity, improving partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and highlighting and advising on peacebuilding needs in the Security Council.

The presentations made to the PBC by Solomon Islands and Colombia, and on the regional efforts of the Sahel, have shown that the PBC can provide a platform where countries can outline successful policies and programmes and the national or regional challenges they face. We encourage concrete outcomes from those meetings, either in terms of further commitment and support from the international community or through the use of lessons learned in other contexts. The PBC's advisory role to the Security Council can also be developed further to become even more relevant. Going forward, such efforts can and should be further leveraged. In our view, there is great scope for the Commission to keep evolving, and the recently adopted resolutions give it a clear mandate to expand its work in support of sustaining peace.

As Chair of the Liberia configuration of the PBC, we have seen how sustaining peace as an agenda matters when it is translated in countries. The situation in Liberia has put the United Nations to the test in applying a sustaining peace approach, and the PBC has played an instrumental role. We therefore welcome how both the sustaining peace report (A/72/707) and the most recent peace and security reform report (A/72/525) emphasize the role of the PBC and that the PBC support from the PBSO will be reinforced. This year is a year of action and continued implementation. The sustaining peace agenda must become a core task of the United Nations system as a whole. The agenda will be implemented in a complex environment where resources are scarce, and the key to success lies in joining hands, taking catalytic action, demonstrating leadership, working horizontally and integrating the agenda.

But our commitment to the sustaining peace agenda must also be backed by sufficient investments in peacebuilding. We should heed the Secretary-General's call for a quantum leap in the Peacebuilding Fund. This year, Sweden intends to contribute approximately $24 million to the Fund, which means that we will more than double our core support in 2018. We are examining the possibility of having a multi-year funding agreement with the Fund. How we finance the system has direct consequences on its ability to work with the sustaining peace agenda.

Sustaining peace and avoiding a relapse into conflict entail reaching inclusive political solutions and addressing the root causes of conflict. Exclusion and discrimination are such root causes, and they are often overlooked. We have to address all dimensions of inequality, which includes having frank discussions about discrimination based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and income inequality, as well as other mechanisms of oppression.

The year 2018 will be another important year for the Commission, and I am confident that it will continue to evolve. Before concluding, I would like to dedicate a special word of thanks to Assistant Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco and his entire team at the Peacebuilding Support Office for their steadfast support and never-ending determination to advance the peacebuilding agenda at the United Nations.

Mr. Kadiri (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): I welcome this meeting as an opportunity to take stock of the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) during 2017. This kind of assessment also enables us to look at the current year by identifying the aspects to review and challenges to be met. I would first like to congratulate the Republic of Korea on its successful presidency over the past year, which has been marked by active engagement on many fronts, and has resulted in an excellent record. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ambassador Cho Tae-yul and his team for their determination and professionalism. I also congratulate Romania and His Excellency Ambassador Ion Jinga, to whom I would like to reiterate my delegation's full support.

The Peacebuilding Commission's annual report (A/72/721) demonstrates the scope of the Commission's activities, both as a platform for advocacy for the causes of fragile countries and mobilizing the funds needed for their recovery, and as a leading advisory body

capable of providing advice and recommendations to the principal organs of the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly and the Security Council. It reflects the Commission's efforts to take ownership of and implement the recommendations made in General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, including by identifying best practices. On the basis of its report and the work it has done so far, the PBC may now be in a position to better identify ways to improve its working methods for a more effective implementation of its mandate, mobilization of partners and consolidation and sustainability of peace.

That is all the more appropriate as the PBC and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) have proved, in recent years, how effective they have been in adapting quickly, according to requirements and situations, as shown by the long list of success stories of the Commission. The report has highlighted another undeniable reality, namely, the importance of partnerships, to which we fully subscribe. In that context, we have focused the work of the Central African Republic configuration for 2018 on strengthening partnerships with the main partners of the country.

The clear success of the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustainability (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87) highlighted the consensus among States on the cardinal importance of employing efforts to achieve lasting peace in today's world. States were therefore able to express their continued commitment to the values of multilateralism and the peaceful resolution of disputes, mediation, good offices and the establishment of a culture of peace. That is why we welcome the fact that the Secretary-General's report on sustaining peace (A/72/707) marked the beginning of a long-term process that now makes peace the concern of the entire United Nations system and creates an ecosystem of partners.

The report refocuses the issue of peace on the imperative of addressing the root causes that trigger and perpetuate conflict and crisis situations that undermine any perspective of sustainable development and security. It has been established that there can be no peace without development, and no development without lasting peace. To that end, the various reports under review today recognize the importance of continuing the review of the United Nations peace and security architecture, coordinating its action and fostering cohesion within its system.

I would now like to focus in particular on the situation in the Central African Republic, where Morocco has had the honour of chairing the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific configuration since 2014. During the past year, the configuration mobilized to facilitate the implementation of the national recovery and peacebuilding plan in the Central African Republic, the mechanisms of which have been put in place. Significant progress has now been made, thanks to the investments and efforts made in 2017, notably in extending the authority of the State; bolstering disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; undertaking security sector reform; and fighting against impunity.

In addition, following the July 2017 visit to the Central African Republic by the Chair of the configuration, a report was submitted to the Security Council that highlighted the latest developments in the country within the framework of the configuration's activities and recommended an increase in the ceiling of troops authorized for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), a recommendation that was supported by the Central African authorities and that was taken into account when the Security Council renewed its mandate. It is worth noting with great appreciation the participation of the President of the Central African Republic at the country-specific configuration meeting held on the sidelines of the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace last month, which enabled a fruitful and substantive exchange.

With regard to the Peacebuilding Fund, we welcome the fact that the need to strengthen synergies between the Fund and the Commission continues to be noted in its annual report (A/72/740). Indeed, the Peacebuilding Fund, which is doing remarkable work in many countries, would benefit from more communication on its projects. Further coordination with the country-specific configurations would also strengthen the coherence of the Fund's actions. We welcome the fact that the Fund's activities are aligned with the World Bank's *National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan* for the Central African Republic.

In 2017, the PBF continued its engagement in the country by funding six projects that have a significant impact on the Central African Republic's recovery: a community violence-reduction project in Paoua and Bambari, support to the recovery of the internal security forces, support for meditation and dialogue,

the promotion of women's political participation and leadership in peacebuilding, the restoration of the State authority in Bambari, and support for the redeployment of the territorial administration and the socioeconomic revitalization of communities.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of communication on the work of the Commission and its configurations. We thank the Department of Public Information for its additional efforts to this end. I should not conclude my speech without congratulating the Chair of the Commission on his commitment and thoroughness, as well as the Chairs of the Commission's country-specific configurations for their efforts and support. I also sincerely thank the Government of the Central African Republic, its Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and Special Representative Onanga-Anyanga, as well as the civilian and military personnel of MINUSCA, to which Morocco has been a contributor for many years. I would also like to extend my thanks to Assistant Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco and the entire team of the Peacebuilding Support Office, who, despite the limited time available to them, are selflessly carrying out their tasks.

Mr. Kawamura (Japan): It is my great pleasure to address today's joint meeting, which follows the successful high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace held in April (A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87). On this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to Ambassador Cho Tae-yul for his splendid leadership as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for 2017. I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Ion Jinga on his assumption of the chairmanship for 2018.

The April meeting featured the highest number of high-level participants this year. It was particularly inclusive in that there was a balance of genders in the speakers, while 150 civil society organizations attended the interactive dialogues. The twin resolutions of the General Assembly (70/262) and the Security Council (2282 (2016)) on the review of the peacebuilding architecture require continuous follow-up on peacebuilding and sustaining peace by both organs.

To make sure these efforts yield concrete results, we must now give priority to the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/72/740) and implement them in an effective manner. In this regard, enhancing linkages among relevant funds seems to be one of the recommendations that can be implemented immediately.

Japan would like to share a good example of a joint effort that has enabled more effective support through a tailor-made approach on the ground that has been community-driven, locally led and internationally supported. We have embarked on a project in Somalia that aims to improve basic social services in communities affected by conflict and by the influx of internally displaced persons. The project is jointly funded by the Peacebuilding Fund and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, and includes engagement with various actors such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Project Services, UN-Habitat and the International Organization for Migration.

By combining resources from both Funds, the implementing agencies can apply a dual protection-and-empowerment approach for durable solutions in a larger geographical area and use resources for direct programme activities more efficiently. The construction of a new livestock market in Kismayo is a practical example of synergy between the Funds and the interagency coordination required for sustaining peace and the human security approach. While further steps by the United Nations system are needed to improve coherence and field focus, the flexibility and the utility of resources from the donor community are also indispensable. Japan will continue to support these efforts.

It is crucial that Member States discuss how to strengthen the Peacebuilding Fund's budget and enhance transparency and accountability, consulting with various donors from the initial stage of developing Peacebuilding Fund projects. It is not enough to respect differing circumstances. We must also bring voices to New York from the ground. Furthermore, as the resources of Member States are limited, it is important to enhance partnerships with and mobilize the enormous untapped potential resources of non-governmental entities, the private sector and international financial institutions. In some cases, these entities already directly contribute to specific Peacebuilding Fund projects. Such blended finance approaches have the potential to promote a quantum leap for the Peacebuilding Fund and peacebuilding activities.

Lastly, Japan has been actively engaged in the area of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We

believe that promoting human security is one key to enhancing these efforts. The human security approach is people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-focused. Its aim is to protect and empower vulnerable individuals. As a member of the Peacebuilding Commission, Japan continues to promote institution-building. It organized a meeting focused on the Liptako-Gourma Integrated Development Authority in the Sahel region in February. We also co-hosted an event last week on social contracts and sustaining peace with the International Peace Institute and other relevant organizations, including civil society organizations. In addition, Japan will actively engage with other interested parties in a discussion on financing, which is also a key element in taking further action to bring the culture of prevention into the field.

Ms. Guadey (Ethiopia): I would like to start by thanking the President for his opening remarks. I would also like to thank Ambassador Cho Tae-yul of the Republic of Korea, the outgoing Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), for his briefing on the progress of the Commission's work in 2017. We are grateful for his stewardship of the work of the Commission during its eleventh session and congratulate him on his invaluable accomplishments. I also congratulate Mr. Ion Jinga, current Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Romania, who has already made notable progress in his work. My delegation looks forward to working very closely with him throughout the year.

The timing of today's annual debate could not be more appropriate in the light of the unprecedented challenges facing the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. All indications are that we are in a period characterized by growing geopolitical tensions and complex security challenges. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is now becoming a major threat. Terrorism and violent extremism also remain a serious danger to international peace and security. Cybercrime and the possibility of disruption to critical infrastructure are reaching nightmarish proportions. The spread of small arms and light weapons and the expansion of transnational organized criminal activity continue to foment instability around the world. Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the ongoing reform process that the Secretary-General is undertaking to make the Organization fit for purpose in response to current security challenges.

We should recall that the year 2016 was an important period for the work of the PBC. It was a year in which twin resolutions on the review of United Nations peacebuilding architecture were unanimously adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 70/262) and the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)). We felt then, as we do strongly now, that the PBC has played a key role in the follow-up of the implementation of the sustaining peace resolutions. Meeting our expectations, the PBC undertook wide-ranging and significant tasks during its eleventh session, with a view to implementing crucial recommendations emanating from those resolutions.

In view of the enormous peace and security challenges we are facing today, making conflict prevention a priority is not just an option. The concept of sustaining peace is also perfectly aligned with this important priority, and it has certainly brought about a paradigm shift in the manner in which we should deal with peace and security issues. It is therefore encouraging to note that the proposed reform of the United Nations peace and security pillar has raised prevention and sustaining peace as its overarching goal. In our view, this is critically important because it provides the necessary framework for coordinating a coherent response to root causes and violence in the various stages of conflict.

It has been emphasized time and again that peace and security, development and human rights are inextricably linked, and that therefore closer collaboration among various United Nations organs and other stakeholders is required for building peaceful and inclusive societies. However, we should realize that we cannot achieve this end without fully utilizing the potential role of the PBC, particularly its convening, bridging and advisory role with the principal and relevant organs of United Nations. We therefore need to scale up the PBC's contribution along these lines. Indeed, to ensure that the Commission's approach is integrated, strategic and coherent, continuous focus and deep engagement are needed.

In that regard, we are encouraged to note the PBC's recent comprehensive advice to the Security Council on a number of regional and country-specific issues. We are also encouraged to note that, in his reform proposal on the hinge role of the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Secretary-General has underscored the importance

of linking the peace and security pillar with the development and humanitarian efforts. Of course, the contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund as a catalytic, rapid-response and flexible pre-positioned pooled fund for financing activities to sustain peace in conflict-affected countries remains very significant.

We believe that the United Nations cannot address the myriad international security challenges alone. In order to achieve the ultimate goal of sustaining peace, there is a need to enhance partnerships with various stakeholders, including with regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, national Governments, various civil-society and private organizations across the whole spectrum of conflict cycles, including prevention, peacekeeping and special political missions, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Ultimately, sustaining peace is of course a national endeavour; national ownership and participation of all stakeholders, including Government, the private sector and civil society, are key to fulfilling that objective. What is really required of the United Nations and international partners is to help build national and local capacities for sustaining peace. This has to be very well explained and understood by all so as to avoid any misunderstanding. Building the necessary confidence among Member States is absolutely essential for facilitating the implementation and operationalization of this new approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Mr. Duarte Lopes (Portugal): I thank the President for convening today's joint debate on the work of the eleventh session of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), which are key elements of the broader peacebuilding and sustaining peace agenda. I welcome the report of the PBC (A/72/721) and the work of Mr. Cho Tae-yul, as well as the reports by the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707) and on the activities of the PBF (A/72/740).

In addition, I would like to congratulate the President of the General Assembly on the success of the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87), held in April, in which Portugal participated at the political level. It was an excellent opportunity to share our own best practices and to learn from those of others, discuss common challenges and reaffirm our collective commitment to this comprehensive, holistic and inclusive approach.

The annual reports of the Peacebuilding Commission and of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund, under consideration today, clearly highlight the advancements already obtained with the renewed emphasis on prevention and on the goal of sustaining peace. Those successes encourage us to call on the United Nations system and its Member States to take full advantage of the bridging role of the PBC. We believe that it could further contribute to the coherence of the United Nations approach to prevention across the system. It would also be an even better catalyst for fostering partnerships. In fact, the ideal of sustaining peace can only be attained with the understanding that it is a process built on partnerships involving all relevant actors at the international, regional, national and local levels, and with the relevant stakeholders.

Examples such as the meetings convened on the situation in the Sahel, the increased coordination with the African Union and the European Union, the renewed partnership with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, and the active engagement and support of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the PBC with the five international organizations represented in Bissau, underscore the importance of close coordination with relevant partners. From those examples we can also confirm that to achieve peace and prevent a relapse into conflict, we must rely on the joint efforts of the countries concerned and the international community, which are key for national ownership. This principle of ownership should also draw our attention to the role of local communities in peacebuilding efforts and its direct link to inclusiveness, particularly the empowerment and participation of women and young people. We have learned from past experiences that the engagement of local communities in peacebuilding processes contribute to their legitimacy, making them far more likely to succeed.

Regarding the performance of the country-specific configurations of the PBC over the past session, we commend the efforts of all the Chairs of the country-specific configurations. There is good progress to report even though many challenges remain. We believe the PBC has a vital role to play in those countries and in advising other bodies of the United Nations system. We also welcome the consistent participation of the Chairs of the country-specific configurations in Security Council meetings.

Portugal commends the efforts of the PBC to diversify its working methods so as to enhance its efficiency and flexibility, notably the recommendations contained in the related report. We agree that there is a need to look at the visibility and communication strategy of the Commission. In this regard, we would like to recommend an increase in the number and broaden the distribution of Chair summaries of PBC meetings, which is a good practice followed by the country-specific configurations. We very much welcome the commitment of the PBC to further discussing ways to enhance synergies between the PBC and the PBF, while preserving the independence of the Fund.

We are also pleased by the fact that grants to the Peacebuilding Fund have reached their highest level in terms of annual contributions since the Fund's inception, which reflects the recognition of the importance that Member States attach to this flexible and preventive tool. In this regard, I am also very pleased that in 2017 Portugal returned to the Peacebuilding Fund as a donor, having contributed unearmarked funds, which is concrete evidence of our commitment, engagement and responsibility in prevention and in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.

However, we understand that 2017 was also a year of growing demands, which requires the mobilization of additional funding for the goals to be achieved. Portugal actively participated at the political level in the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, in April, where the issue of blended finance for development was identified as a window of opportunity to engage the private sector. We are encouraged by the PBF's innovative partnerships, notably in Colombia, and look forward to next year's report and the opportunities to learn from the lessons that come from that test case. We welcome the PBF's ongoing efforts with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment. We are also encouraged by the Fund's increasing focus on young people, namely through its Youth Promotion Initiative in 2017.

Considering all those achievements, we look forward to seeing the outcome of the ongoing reforms by the Secretary-General in relation to the peacebuilding architecture, as well as the interim report to be presented at the next session of the General Assembly, which will elaborate on his recommendations and options, including on financing. We fully support the reinforcement of the Peacebuilding Support Office so that it can assume a stronger cross-pillar bridging role. We also strongly commend the work already initiated to reposition the United Nations development system so it can better address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Portugal pledges to fully fulfil its commitments to multilateralism and to meeting the challenges ahead.

In conclusion, new contemporary threats, most of them transnational, are increasingly putting international stability, the pursuit of peace, sustainable development and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law at risk. We know that prevention, peacekeeping and efforts to de-escalate violence in conflict, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding require a long-term joint effort. Let us therefore act collectively in that effort. Portugal is fully committed in this regard.

Ms. Lind (Estonia): I thank the President of the General Assembly for convening today's meeting on the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) (A/72/721) and the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740). As this meeting takes place just a month after the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87), it also gives us an opportunity to follow up on it.

Pursuant to the twin 2016 resolutions (resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)), the high-level meeting convened in April reflected our joint efforts aimed at strengthening the work of the United Nations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We were encouraged by the shared understanding of the notion of sustaining peace that was expressed by participants at the high-level meeting, taking forward the implementation of the concept.

Estonia supports the vision of the Secretary-General presented in his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707), which is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Conflict prevention should be at the heart of the work of the United Nations, and peace will be sustainable only if we make progress on development and address the root causes of conflict. Democratic governance, the rule of law, the protection of human rights and transparent, accountable State institutions are therefore essential to achieving stability and peace. Furthermore, gender aspects and the empowerment of women and young people are critical for sustaining peace.

It is clear that the United Nations system needs to work in a more flexible, integrated and coordinated manner, both at the country level and at Headquarters, as fragmentation undermines the ability of the United Nations to assist Member States. We therefore strongly support the efforts to link the reform of the United Nations peace and security architecture with the reform of the United Nations development system and management.

We welcome the comprehensive report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eleventh session, including the summary of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolutions. We would like to commend Ambassador Cho Tae-yul, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, for his leadership and work as Chair of the Commission last year.

The Peacebuilding Commission is a central actor in the United Nations system, in particular through its convening power. Estonia had the privilege of being a member of the Peacebuilding Commission last year. We were pleased to see its evolving and influential role. Estonia welcomes the broader focus of the Commission, including its regional approach, such as in the Sahel and Great Lakes, which involves sharing countries' experiences, addressing cross-cutting issues and fostering partnerships between the United Nations and international, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions.

We are of the opinion that the PBC's bridging and advisory role with the General Assembly, Security Council and the Economic and Social Council could be further improved. We also support strengthening the Peacebuilding Support Office by integrating cross-pillar action at the United Nations. However, in promoting the sustaining peace agenda, we cannot rely on the United Nations system alone, as that is primarily the responsibility of the Member States. Governments must be willing to implement adequate policies, and the Sustainable Development Goals are one of the powerful toolboxes at their disposal. The role of Member States becomes especially critical with the increase in investment in conflict prevention and peacekeeping. Predictable funding is essential for supporting countries in transition or which are prone to conflicts. To date, Estonia has contributed to the Peacebuilding Fund for five years and believes that it has shown remarkable results as an effective instrument for providing fast, catalytic and flexible assistance.

In conclusion, the consensus-based adoption at the high-level meeting in April of resolution 72/276, on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, was an affirmation of the commitment of Member States to the sustaining peace agenda. The Estonian Prime Minister also affirmed at the meeting that Estonia remains dedicated to working towards maintaining peace and supporting the agenda (see A/72/PV.83). We look forward to keeping up this momentum and to the reports that the Secretary-General will present to Member States in order to further build on the implementation efforts of Member States and the United Nations system.

Mr. Bagwell (United States of America): I thank the President of the General Assembly for convening today's meeting, which brings together Member States to consider the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and in support of sustaining peace — the critical idea that peacebuilding applies to all phases of conflict — before, during and after. The United States strongly believes that all pillars of the United Nations system should be engaged in sustaining peace.

Peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is forged over time through trust, openness and goodwill, including between a Government and its citizens. While United Nations peacekeeping missions have long helped to create a space for such peace to be developed, peacekeeping missions alone cannot produce lasting peace. To sustain peace we must focus on prevention, and not just the consequences of conflict. Sustaining peace must also involve a larger, multidimensional strategy, in which national Governments and stakeholders do their part to fulfil their responsibilities and meet their commitments on the ground.

At the United Nations, we must do our part to break barriers and bridge differences across the three pillars to foster more cooperation and coherence within the United Nations system. To this end, the United States supports the Secretary-General's reform initiatives and their focus on better integrating conflict prevention across the work of the United Nations, as discussed at the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in April (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87). We also encourage the Secretary-General to take action on his report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707), specifically including creating integrated strategic frameworks, United Nations development assistance frameworks and greater in-country cross-pillar cooperation.

The Peacebuilding Commission has an important role to play in ensuring that the entire United Nations system recognizes the inextricable links between sustainable development and sustainable peace, and we value the whole-of-system approach it brings to its country- and region-specific configurations. The PBC's engagement in Liberia is a bright example of the contributions that the Commission, the PBF and the Peacebuilding Support Office can make, particularly when they work together with the Security Council. We value such successes, yet also recognize that we can all do more to energize the peacebuilding work conducted by the United Nations. The PBC should play a key role in convening United Nations bodies, Governments and other stakeholders to ensure that we work in a coherent and coordinated manner to build sustainable peace. We also recognize the work of the Peacebuilding Fund, including its engagement with civil society organizations to promote gender and youth initiatives and partnership with such organizations as the World Bank, to advance peacebuilding processes.

While organization and access to funding are important, money does not create peace. Access to assessed funding is not a cure for all problems and will not fix the fundamental obstacles to effective peacebuilding. It is our view that peacebuilding should be voluntarily funded and not tied to the peacekeeping budget. Peacebuilding provides a space for partnerships and cooperation. It is in this space, where everyone is brought to the table and all voices are heard, that effective and lasting transitions to peace are made possible. The United States is committed to the advancement of the peacebuilding process and looks forward to working with all Member States to sustain peace in our world.

Mr. Skinner-Kleé Arenales (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the President of the General Assembly for convening today's annual debate on the report of Peacebuilding Commission (A/72/721), the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707), and the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/72/740). As we have stated previously, my delegation attaches the highest priority to these issues.

I also take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Cho Tae-yul, on his work in the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). I wish the Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Jinga, every success in his efforts at the helm of the Commission.

We would like to reiterate our gratitude to the President for convening the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87), as a follow-up to the twin resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council both in 2016 (resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016)) and this year (resolutions 72/276 and 2413 (2018)). All of these resolutions have given new drive to the peacebuilding architecture. We acknowledge that they bring greater consistency to the work of the United Nations in a cross-cutting and inclusive way, thereby strengthening the three pillars of the Organization's work — peace and security, human rights and development — and enabling the comprehensive and joint efforts required to make them operational.

It is clear that we must continue to strengthen the peacebuilding architecture. To that end, our delegation presented an initiative at the Organization of American States calling for the concept of sustaining peace to be included on its agenda. That inclusion would foster closer relations between that regional organization and the PBC, as stipulated in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, on peacebuilding issues.

We believe that peacebuilding must be adopted by other regional organizations. Accordingly, it is wise to unite efforts to ensure that the peacebuilding architecture is known and implemented effectively in various regional contexts.

With regard to agenda item 111 — "Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund" — my delegation appreciates the Fund's generous support, in particular to our country and to our subregion. It could help us overcome major challenges in areas such as violence against women or the strengthening of the justice sector. My delegation will follow with interest the implementation of the first subregional initiative on repatriated migrants, endorsed by the Peacebuilding Fund. We hope that this subregional example can be adopted as a good practice and that we can share the lessons learned.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our support for the draft proposal on peace and security reform presented by the Secretary-General, which grants a pre-eminent role to the Peacebuilding Support Office. We acknowledge that this Office could provide

greater support to the Secretariat in this area in order to strengthen the prevention approach.

Lastly, we eagerly await the provisional report of the Secretary-General, which will provide greater detail on recommendations and options for funding the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission within the United Nations.

Mr. Itegboje (Nigeria): At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening today's meeting to discuss the important report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on its eleventh session (A/72/721), as well as the commendable report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) (A/72/740). We also wish to thank the new Chair, Romania, for continuing the good work of the immediate past Chair, the Republic of Korea. We are confident that 2018 will witness important and progressive outcomes globally, through heightened synergy between the PBC and the PBF and in conjunction with all other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and women's and youth groups.

An identified priority for the PBC in 2018 is the Sahel region, covering Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger. These States are neighbouring countries that share common challenges with Nigeria. As a result, Nigeria has been at the forefront of activities geared towards lasting peace in the region. Nigeria championed the establishment of the Multinational Joint Task Force involving Benin, Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria and its Regional Intelligence Fusion Unit. The existence of both bodies has had a great impact in the areas of saving lives and killing Boko Haram insurgents in the region.

We wish to recall that in March 2018 at the sixth meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel, emphasis was placed on the need for a holistic approach in addressing the multidimensional threats facing the countries of the Sahel region and their peoples, calling on regional and international partners to act with greater synergy and unity of purpose. We also wish to recall that on 24 April there was an important Sahel Alliance side event, entitled "Working hand in hand with the United Nations to invest for the future of the Sahel", at which similar calls were made to underscore that only concurrent, integrated and coordinated efforts in the fields of security and development can bring about lasting peace and stability in the Sahel region. It is our hope that such calls for a holistic approach will be brought to fruition. We are also looking forward to the PBC's annual session on 26 June, which will be centred on the Sahel.

There is no doubt that we, as members of the PBC and States Members of the United Nations, are indeed moving in the right direction in the area peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It is our hope that the annual session of the PBC will engender the forging of stronger partnerships and greater cooperation, champion the cause of inclusive national ownership and ensure that women and young people take their rightful place in the quest for lasting peace in the region.

The other focus of the day is the Peacebuilding Fund. The Fund is invaluable because it addresses issues such as food insecurity, poverty, climate change, terrorism, transnational organized crime and so on. Many countries that have received invaluable support from the Fund can attest to the value of its work. Accordingly, the need for an in-depth analysis of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707) and for financing United Nations peacebuilding activities in order to ensure more adequate, predictable and sustainable funding cannot be overemphasized. The culture of safeguarding peace, keeping peace, restoring peace, building peace and sustaining peace must be entrenched. That is the cardinal value of the United Nations.

Nigeria is a country that is diverse in many ways. We know how fault lines can be exploited by a few. We also know how this diversity can be a source of strength, which is one of the reasons we have demonstrated our commitment to working in concert with other Member States to build and sustain peace and apply funds for this cause judiciously and progressively.

I would also like to take this opportunity to join others in congratulating the President on the successful high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace held last month at Headquarters (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87). Resolution 72/276, adopted by the General Assembly at that time, called on the PBC to further advance, explore and consider ways to implement the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Nigeria was also privileged to host an important side event with Canada, entitled "Ideas and global platforms for preventing violent conflict and sustaining peace on the road to 2020". The continued commitment

of Nigeria and that of other Member States in that regard was clear and highly encouraging.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm Nigeria's unwavering commitment to supporting all efforts to prevent or resolve conflict or make or build peace where needed. Over the years, we have shown our commitment to working with others to that end.

Mr. Bin Momen (Bangladesh): We join other delegations in thanking the President of the General Assembly for convening today's meeting and for sharing his insights to set the tone for our deliberations. We reiterate our appreciation to the President for successfully organizing the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, held on 24 and 25 April (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV. 87), and for his work on preparing a fairly comprehensive Chair summary. It was our humble contribution, together with the delegation of Lithuania, to co-facilitate resolution 72/276, adopted at the high-level meeting.

We also commend the statement made on behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and thank the current Chair and Vice-Chairs of the PBC for their able stewardship. We are encouraged to see enhanced attention being paid to the PBC's work across the system and the increasing scope and substance of the PBC's convening and advisory functions. It spoke volumes about the PBC's relevance and competence when it hosted the Presidents of the Gambia and the Central African Republic on the sidelines of the high-level meeting. We draw satisfaction from the fact that the Security Council also finds the observations and recommendations of the PBC to be increasingly relevant in the context of its work.

Bangladesh recognizes the important work of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and has taken the initiative to contribute modestly to the Fund as a demonstration of our support. We believe that the testimonies from the field about the efficacy of the PBF's work validate the Fund's commitment to promoting national ownership and addressing the root causes of conflict in an inclusive manner. We particularly commend the PBF's growing focus on women- and youth-related projects and its recent initiatives to fund projects by community-based civil-society organizations. We take particular note of the PBF's contribution to projects in some of our neighbouring countries, including Myanmar.

In the context of our current discussions on the PBC and the PBF, we wish to make five specific points. First, the high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace saw the unequivocal commitment of Member States to conflict prevention and sustaining peace through a United Nations system-wide approach and sound partnership. Resolution 72/276, adopted at the meeting, generally acknowledges the need for further exploration and implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations in this regard. It is our expectation that the PBC would help to initiate and accelerate discussions on the implementation of those recommendations where it may have competence and also act as a catalyst for discussions and implementation by other relevant United Nations bodies, in accordance with their respective mandates. This approach can be commenced without further delay.

Secondly, the Secretary-General's proposals on United Nations peace and security pillar reform have placed due emphasis on conflict prevention and sustaining peace, thereby recognizing the potential critical role that can be played by the PBC. Accordingly, the Secretary-General has identified the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), within a proposed department of political and peacebuilding affairs, to perform a hinge function to help open the doors for enhanced coordination and coherence across the three pillars of the United Nations. This additional function can be effectively delivered only if there are concrete measures taken to reinforce the PBSO in terms of its human resources, among other issues. We must recognize that in its hinge function, the PBSO would be required to work closely with the entire system in order to help better understand and implement the notion of sustaining peace and to gather and analyse information on implementation for the consideration of Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

Thirdly, along with a strengthened PBSO, it may also be advisable for the Secretary-General to directly assume responsibility for following up on resolution 72/276, in the light of its relevant recommendations and corresponding views from Member States. The suggestion for the Secretary-General to consider appointing a high-level official in his Executive Office to monitor and liaise with respect to such follow-up is eminently practical. It may help further coordination and coherence across the system on the basis of a structured reporting and accountability mechanism. The designated official may also act as a bridge between the PBC and the PBF and the Secretary-General's Executive Office.

Fourthly, we acknowledge the general trend towards further strengthening the PBC under the auspices of its Organizational Committee. The review of the PBC working methods should be an ongoing process and approached with a view to calibrating its procedures and methods in response to emerging realities. We find value in the delegation of responsibilities among PBC members on specific thematic issues. Such delegation should favour the express purpose of further assisting the PBC Chair in taking forward discussions on thematic issues relating to financing, gender, youth, institution-building and national ownership, inter alia. Our delegation is available to help promote further work in this direction.

Fifthly, we continue to attach high importance to peacebuilding financing, and take note of the constructive proposals on assessed and voluntary contributions, as well as innovative funding, made by the Secretary-General in his report (A/72/740). We recognize the critical importance of a quantum leap in financing for the Peacebuilding Fund, while maintaining its rapid response, flexible deployment mechanisms. We would encourage the relevant United Nations bodies, including the PBC, to take forward discussions on various aspects of the Secretary-General's proposals without being mutually exclusive. It is evident that the status quo with PBF funding may not be the best desirable option despite the inherent merit of existing practices. The PBF needs to be recognized for creating a pathway to achieve the stipulated gender benchmark by various trust funds within the United Nations system.

No society or nation is immune from the threats of conflict. Sustained efforts and engagements are required to address the fault lines of these threats. National ownership is key, making room for participation of all segments of society. Sustainable development efforts must be aimed at leaving no one behind. Sound, well-functioning institutions should provide the best guarantee for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

However, there is no one-size-fits-all situation. Each nation and society should be able to determine its own direction and pace towards sustaining peace. In order to further help deepen that understanding, our Government has recently set up a peacebuilding centre to conduct research and training on the subject. We believe our own ongoing nation-building experience can be a compelling case for focused and committed investment in peacebuilding in other comparable situations.

Ms. Stener (Norway): At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly and the current and previous Chairs of the Peacebuilding Commission for their statements.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, supporting Member States in their efforts aimed at preventing conflict and laying the foundations for lasting peace is a key role for the United Nations. After extensive deliberations over the last three years — culminating in the recent successful high-level meeting of the General Assembly on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (see A/72/PV.83-A/72/PV.87) — we have found new consensus and a path forward.

Now is the time to enter the operational mode, focusing on practical steps and the implementation of the various proposals before us. The United Nations peacebuilding architecture should continue be the engine for this process, as it aims to integrate the ideas and practices of sustaining peace in the rest of the United Nations family, both at Headquarters and the country level. I would like to make three points.

First, the Peacebuilding Commission is becoming more dynamic and flexible, and we need to build on these gains in the coming years. Norway would like to commend the current and previous Chairs, as well as the other members of the Commission, for their consistent efforts aimed at making the Commission more agile and better connected to the needs at the country level. In particular, together with other parts of the United Nations system, the Commission has been able to contribute to positive developments in West Africa. In many ways, the recent positive developments in such countries as the Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone provide the model for how we should work — firmly led by the countries themselves, but supported in a coherent and effective way by the United Nations, working in close partnership with regional and subregional organizations and other supporters.

Building on that model, we fully support the emphasis by the Chair on engaging in the Sahel region in the coming years. Furthermore, the Commission has been able to improve the quality of advice it gives to enrich the debates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It has also strengthened the bridging role it was initially set up to play, in order to pursue a coherent, integrated approach to building and sustaining peace.

Secondly, we need even stronger partnerships and more collaboration among international actors. Both the World Bank and the United Nations are stepping up their efforts to support States affected by conflict, fragility and violence. This provides important opportunities for a strengthened partnership for sustaining peace. Their joint study on conflict prevention, *Pathways for Peace*, makes a strong case for a better partnership between United Nations entities and the World Bank. We must make sure that this translates into a collective effort that explores the comparative advantages of the United Nations and the World Bank.

Furthermore, we need to intensify partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, civil society and private business actors.

Finally, we need to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding in order to make progress on the sustaining peace agenda. As violent conflicts are increasing in numbers and becoming more complex, United Nations peacebuilding efforts remain severely underfunded. This is a collective problem.

We would like to commend the Peacebuilding Support Office on the Peacebuilding Fund's impressive track record in 2017. Norway is one of the largest donors to the Fund and will increase its contribution for 2018 substantively. The Fund has continued to be flexible, risk-tolerant and catalytic, and it has contributed to stabilizing and building peace in a number of countries.

Norway is particularly pleased at the fact that the Fund continues to raise the bar in terms of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The ambitions and achievements of the Fund in this area are an example to be followed by other United Nations entities.

While the Peacebuilding Fund is central to United Nations peacebuilding efforts in practice, financing for peacebuilding is more than generating more resources for the Fund. It is about shifting the flow of resources from rebuilding after conflict to preventing conflict and building and sustaining peace.

The Secretary-General's recent report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707) contains many concrete proposals in this regard that deserve our full attention. Together with Indonesia, our close partner on financing in the Peacebuilding Commission, Norway will continue to engage in the process of converting these proposals into action.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the joint debate on these items.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda items 30 and 111?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 65.

Agenda item 115 (*continued*)

Appointment of members to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(f) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences

Note by the Secretary-General (A/72/107)

The Acting President: Members will recall that, at its 74th and 76th plenary meetings, held on 20 and 24 December 2017, respectively, the Assembly took note of the appointments of Botswana, France, Iraq, Nepal and the Russian Federation for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 2018, and of China for a term beginning on 20 December 2017 and ending on 31 December 2019.

Members will also recall that, at its 78th plenary meeting, on 7 March 2018, the Assembly took note of the appointments of Brazil, for a term beginning on 7 March 2018 and expiring on 31 December 2020, and Ecuador, for a term beginning on 7 March 2018, and expiring on 31 December 2018.

Members will further recall that one seat from the African States remains to be filled for a term of office beginning on the date of appointment and expiring on 31 December 2020.

After consultations with the Chair of the Group of African States, the President of the General Assembly has appointed Sierra Leone for a term of office beginning today, 24 May 2018, and expiring on 31 December 2020.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of this appointment?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (f) of agenda item 115?

It was so decided.

(g) Appointment of members of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now turn to sub-item (g) of agenda item 115 in order to replace those members of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns whose term of office expired on 15 September 2017.

Members will recall that the Assembly, by its resolution 67/203, of 21 December 2012, decided to establish the 10-member Board, consisting of two members from each United Nations regional group.

Members will also recall that the Assembly, by its resolution 69/214, of 19 December 2014, decided that the duration of subsequent terms for members of the Board shall continue to be two years, starting on 16 September of every second year, and that United Nations regional groups may re-nominate one of their existing two members of the Board for one consecutive term, while ensuring that no Member State is eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms and taking into account the importance of ensuring continuity and rotation in the work of the Board.

In this regard, the Secretariat has received the following nominations: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Colombia, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria and Switzerland.

I would like to note that Kenya and Nigeria have already served one term, from 2015 to 2017, and that both States have been renominated by the Group of African States for another term, from 2017 to 2019.

Given that resolution 69/214 provides that regional groups may renominate only one of their existing two members for one consecutive term, it would be necessary for the General Assembly to take a decision to determine whether the Group of African States can renominate two of its existing members of the Board, namely, Kenya and Nigeria.

Is there any objection to allowing the Group of African States to renominate both Kenya and Nigeria?

I hear no objection.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We will now proceed to appoint the members of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to appoint Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Colombia, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria and Switzerland as members of the board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns for a term beginning on 16 September 2017 and ending on 15 September 2019?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 115?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations A/72/PV.91

General Assembly
Seventy-second session

Official Records

91st plenary meeting
Thursday, 31 May 2018, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lajčák ..... (Slovakia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.,

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: I invite the attention of the General Assembly to draft resolution A/72/L.52, circulated under sub-item (a) of agenda item 24, entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system". Members will recall that at its second plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly decided to allocate sub-item (a) of agenda item 24 to the Second Committee. To enable the General Assembly to take action expeditiously on draft resolution A/72/L.52, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to consider sub-item (a) of agenda item 24 directly in plenary meeting and to proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 24 (*continued*)

Operational activities for development

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Draft resolution (A/72/L.52)

The President: As we meet here to consider draft resolution A/72/L.52, on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, allow me to make four very brief points.

First, I would like to express my thanks to our co-facilitators, Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum of Algeria and Ambassador Ib Petersen of Denmark. They took on that role knowing it would not be easy. They have spent many hours in negotiations, listening, facilitating, responding and analysing. They have spent many outside them, too, looking for middle ground. The fact that we are here today, considering the draft resolution, means that they have done a terrific job. We all owe them a great debt.

Secondly, the process to get here has belonged to the Member States. They were in the driving seat from start to finish, and it is their work that has brought us all here. They came to the table day after day. They asked for clarifications, requested more information, suggested counterproposals and worked to find common ground. I therefore thank them all.

Thirdly, I would like to acknowledge something, on which I will be very clear. The draft resolution is not viewed by everyone as the perfect document, but it is a legitimate outcome of a multilateral process. It shows what we are capable of. We can achieve compromise. We can come together to find new opportunities and ways ahead, and we can take steps to move the Organization forward.

Fourthly and finally, I would like to say that our work does not end today. There is a lot left to do. That will mean considering the Secretary-General's implementation plan, which is due before the end of the session. It will also mean turning our attention to funding arrangements and coming together to mobilize

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badly needed resources. We cannot see our actions today in a vacuum. We must create forward momentum into the ongoing Economic and Social Council review and alignment process, into our discussions on the two other pillars of reform — management and peace and security — and, lastly, into our daily work.

Before I conclude, I want to again thank our esteemed and overworked co-facilitators, Ambassador Boukadoum and Ambassador Petersen; our committed Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General; and all of those present as they followed up on the commitments we made in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, drove the process forward and showed what we are capable of when we use our multilateral system and work together.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/72/L.52.

In connection with draft resolution A/72/L.52, I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. Pollard (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): This statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

In order to implement the provisions of draft resolution A/72/L.52, requirements amounting to approximately $255 million would be needed on an annual basis, as communicated in paragraph 80 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/684) entitled "Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet". The major portion of those requirements would necessitate extrabudgetary resources.

As requested in paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, the Secretariat hopes that front-loaded voluntary contributions will be received in 2018 in order to expedite the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system as of 1 January 2019. Under the provisions of paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, relating to funding through the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) cost-sharing arrangement, the Secretariat's share would be assessed to the programme budget. It is estimated that the Secretariat's share of the UNDG cost-sharing arrangement relating to 2019 would be in the range of from $13 million to $16 million. The Secretariat is not in a position to provide a detailed statement of programme budget implications prior to the finalization of the implementation plan, as the operationalization of the funding arrangements requires consultations with the United Nations development system entities, as indicated in paragraph 13 of the draft resolution.

Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/72/L.52, in accordance with the established procedures, the requirements relating to the Secretariat's share of the UNDG cost-sharing arrangement will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval at its seventy-third session as revised estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, in relation to the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

The President: I call on the representative of Algeria in his capacity as first co-facilitator.

Mr. Boukadoum (Algeria): In my capacity as first co-facilitator, allow me to sincerely thank all Member States, from the Permanent Representatives to the committed representatives who so firmly and constructively stood in support of an ambitious outcome of our consultations. I am grateful for their resolve to pursue ambitious change and their spirit of compromise to find ways to reach consensus. I am also heartened by their support to Ambassador Petersen and myself as co-facilitators throughout that very complex process.

Allow me also to thank Secretary-General António Guterres and Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed for their vision and unwavering support along the way. Together with their teams, they have been instrumental in helping Member States to chart the best way towards change. They have been able to translate the calls of the Member States for a more strategic, effective, efficient and accountable United Nations development system into ideas and options for the consideration of Member States. I commend their leadership, and I am truly grateful for their continuing commitment to serving the Governments and peoples of the world.

I also take the opportunity to express special thanks to the President of the General Assembly for being a crucial ally and supporter in that process. Your commitment to ensuring a successful outcome and your engagement in brokering consensus, Mr. President, enabled us to agree on the final draft resolution, A/72/L.52.

The draft resolution marks the beginning of a new era — a new generation of United Nations country teams, a reinvigorated resident coordinator system and revamped regional support in line with needs at the country level and changes at the global level, for a more integrated and accountable United Nations development system and for Member States to better support that system in its efforts. The draft resolution is a first step in making bold new decisions that require collective work for a smooth transition. We look forward to a regular exchange of ideas throughout the implementation process, refining it as we move ahead, particularly with regard to the implementation plan for the reinvigorated resident-coordinator system, including its funding arrangements.

The technical note provided by the Secretariat explaining parts of the draft resolution will be a key contribution to the implementation plan. We are encouraged by the fact that the whole United Nations development system, through the United Nations Development Group, will be fully and constructively engaged in this implementation process. The reviews of the reinvigorated resident-coordinator system during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly will also be a milestone on the way to building a strong, impartial and empowered system supported by adequate and sustainable funding.

With your permission, Mr. President, I would like to express my warmest gratitude to my co-facilitator, Ambassador Petersen of Denmark, and his team for the excellent and constructive cooperation we have enjoyed during the past month. I also wish him a full recovery.

The President: I call on the representative of Denmark in his capacity as second co-facilitator.

Mr. Petersen (Denmark): I thank Mr. Boukadoum for his kind words. I fully share his view of our excellent cooperation, so I offer my most sincere thanks to him and his team for a a very productive collaboration.

This is also not an explanation of vote, but I too would like to reiterate our profound gratitude to all States members of the General Assembly for the active engagement and construction spirit they showed during our recent consultations. I also wish to thank President Lajčák for entrusting us with the task of co-facilitating these negotiations and for his tireless support. We also thank the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, along with their teams, whose tireless efforts to adapt the United Nations development system to today's needs and challenges in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have been truly admirable. This has been a unique opportunity, and we feel lucky to have had it. I believe everyone rose to occasion presented.

If not a historic day, today is indeed a very important step forward on the long journey towards 2030, which started with our agreement on the Sustainable Development Goals. The draft quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution before us (A/72/L.52) is another important step on that path. The ambition for change that we adopt today matches the ambition of the new development agenda. We must join forces now to support the implementation of the new draft resolution, in order to ensure that the United Nations development system reaches its full potential so as to provide the best possible support for Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The system we need must be collaborative, coherent, responsive, effective, efficient and accountable.

As we know, the clock is ticking. We are already three years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Through this draft resolution, Member States are calling on the United Nations development system to act on the provisions of the draft resolution as soon as possible. We are confident that with the strong commitment of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General's leadership of the United Nations Development Group, and with the resolve of all entities of the United Nations development system, we will be able to live up to the challenges ahead of us.

I therefore believe that I speak on behalf of all delegations in committing to supporting the United Nations development system in its efforts. As President Lajčák mentioned, multilateral cooperation is always a balance between optimal efficiency and optimal or maximum legitimacy. While there may be different opinions on the efficiency of these recommendations, I believe we can say that they do indeed have maximum legitimacy because they are supported by all Member States. That gives us the best platform for forging ahead. I also join my co-facilitator in underlining the importance in this process of using the technical notes as guidance in the implementation of the plan for the reinvigorated resident-coordinator system in the context of the reform as a whole, and we look forward to actively participating in those endeavours with all Member States. Let us join forces in making

the great ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and of this draft resolution a reality.

The President: I shall now call on those delegations wishing to speak in explanation of position before the adoption. May I remind delegations that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Eckels-Currie (United States of America): Over the past year, one of the United States Government's highest priorities has been to shine a light on the United Nations and let the American people decide for themselves about the value of the Organization. I know many participants in this Hall feel the same way. Whether their country contributes $1 or 22 per cent of the United Nations budget, we all have to show our citizens that their investment in the United Nations yields results.

This is especially true for the United Nations development system, in which the United States is the world's largest investor. Every year, we contribute $1.7 billion to everything from improving education to empowering women and girls to promoting human rights and the rule of law. The American people do this because we want to work with the United Nations to help make the world a more stable and prosperous place for all of us.

Today we are taking an important step towards achieving that goal through the development of a more effective, accountable, responsive and efficient United Nations platform that is fit for purpose. The draft resolution before us (A/72/L.52) changes the way the United Nations organizes and runs its development activities. Member States are giving the Secretary-General new and important responsibilities for overseeing and coordinating the United Nations development work around the world. It now will fall to the Secretary-General to ensure accountability for a more effective and more efficient development system.

The United States expects that the reforms we adopt today will lead to less bureaucracy, less overhead, better performance and improved flexibility on the part of United Nations agencies so that they can act quickly when necessary. Implementing these changes will not be easy, especially when we are talking about dozens of United Nations entities with different structures, mandates and funding sources. Moving forward, United Nations agencies will need to focus on their core mandates and comparative advantages and make tough choices about low-priority activities. Completing these reforms will require a commitment on the part of Member States and United Nations staff to seeing this process through to completion. If we are successful, though, we will not just save money; we will create a system that is more responsive to those who need it the most.

Today's draft resolution limits increases in assessed contributions for States Members of the United Nations. This is critical, since it enables us to avoid a more than $200 million increase in the Organization's regular budget compared to what was first on the table. In Government it is often easy to think that more money is the way to fix a problem, especially when we create something new to solve it, but when we looked closer and got creative, we found that there were other ways to fund the work of the United Nations rather than by asking our taxpayers to shoulder more of the burden.

The fact that we came together to adopt this draft resolution by consensus sends a strong positive signal. For that I must take a moment to express our deep gratitude to our co-facilitators, Ambassadors Sabri Boukadoum and Ib Petersen. Together we have committed to empowering the Secretary-General to make important changes. Getting development reform right is a goal that should unite us. The United States appreciates the work of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, their staffs, the co-facilitators and all the Member States whose constructive efforts have brought us this far. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Secretary-General and his team and other Member States to fully realize the value of these changes.

Mr. Lal (India): Today we are going to adopt a landmark draft resolution (A/72/L.52) that has the potential to significantly enhance the efficiency and efficacy of the United Nations system's development outreach efforts. As a developing country and a founding member of the Group of 77, India has long engaged in pursuing the development agenda at the United Nations, including through South-South cooperation. We therefore have a keen interest in ensuring the success of those efforts. The United Nations development system reform is the first of the three sets of reform proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his first year in office, which began last year. We thank the Secretary-General for presenting the reform proposals, and we also thank the Deputy Secretary-General and her team for their tireless efforts to build consensus.

On the one hand, the United Nations development system reform proposals flow from our collective desire to strengthen the United Nations system's capability to improve its delivery, especially in the context of the much more comprehensive understanding of the global challenges we face, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On the other hand, those proposals have come at a time when the United Nations is staring at a scenario of severe resource constraints. That stark contradiction in required resources versus potentially available resources has been a major fault line in the debate leading up to today.

From the start, we have strongly supported the Secretary-General's proposal to reform the United Nations development system. His proposals for delegating authority and increasing accountability within the United Nations system in line with national priorities were intended to be supported by much enhanced, non-earmarked funding. However, draft resolution A/72/L.52 had to be substantially modified, despite enjoying strong support from an overwhelming majority of the membership of the Assembly.

The modalities of the funding envisaged in the current text are very different from the Secretary-General's original proposal. We are also conscious that the volume of funding and the timetable for its availability remain unclear and uncertain at this stage. The proposed enhancement of cost-sharing by various agencies, levies on earmarked funding and voluntary contributions are all likely to involve considerable uncertainty and possible shortfalls.

In that context, we welcome the assurances made on the record by the co-facilitators just now with respect to the technical note that was provided earlier by the Secretariat and forwarded by the co-facilitators in their letter dated 30 April 2018, with a view to serving as a basis for the amended modalities of the funding envisaged in the draft resolution to back the changes in the United Nations development system structure. We have also noted the explanation provided by the United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management just a short while ago.

We support the draft resolution and look forward to the implementation report to be presented by the Secretary-General in that regard. We also note that a comprehensive review of the United Nations development system reform will be presented during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. We remain committed to constructive engagement with the Secretariat and all our partners in order to see those reforms move ahead.

Sustainable development remains the key to collective peace and prosperity in a globalized world, and we hope that the entire membership and the Secretariat will work together to make the United Nations development system stronger so as to assist developing countries in achieving the entire range of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The President: We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system". May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/72/L.52?

Draft resolution A/72/L.52 was adopted (resolution 72/279).

The President: I now give the floor to the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General: I have just arrived from Mali, but I wanted to be here personally to thank everyone here for their leadership, engagement and constructive spirit as representatives of all the States Members of the United Nations. I would like to pay a special tribute to the co-facilitators, Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum, Permanent Representative of Algeria, and Ambassador Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark. Their tireless efforts were absolutely essential to the shared success of the Member States in this intergovernmental process.

The adoption today of resolution 72/279 ushers in the most ambitious and comprehensive transformation of the United Nations development system in decades. It sets the foundations for repositioning sustainable development at the heart of the United Nations, and it gives practical meaning to our collective promise to advance the Sustainable Development Goals for everyone, everywhere, with poverty eradication as its first goal, leaving, as we always say, no one behind. That is what this is really about. In the end, reform is about putting in place the mechanisms to make a real difference in the lives of people.

The General Assembly has been clear in its mandates to establish a new generation of United Nations country teams and strengthen our investments in our peoples and

our planet, in peace and prosperity. National ownership and a strong focus on accountability and results will guide the system every step of the way. Our teams on the ground will now be better able to tailor their presence, capacities, skill sets and overall responses to the priorities of the membership. We will reach out and build stronger partnerships with Governments, but we will also engage with civil society, academia, the private sector and beyond in order to take actions to scale.

Our joint planning instruments in countries, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, will better reflect country priorities and needs. Members will be able to count on impartial and empowered resident coordinators with development as their DNA, fully devoted to the needs that must be met to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by drawing on experience, skills and knowledge across the system.

I am extremely proud of the 129 resident coordinators working hard around the world in 165 countries and, in some cases, against all odds. Being a resident coordinator is one of the most challenging jobs in the United Nations, but the structures we have today at the country level are excessively reliant on personalities and goodwill across a system that does not always reward cooperation. We can now resolve a historic deficit in our coordination function and institutionalize what works, across the board.

I count on the support of Member States to adequately and predictably fund the reinvigorated nationally driven, people-centred resident-coordinator system. As representatives know, my preference would have been to fund the resident-coordinator system through the regular budget of the United Nations so as to ensure predictability, sustainability and the ownership of all Member States. The hybrid funding solution put forward by the co-facilitators is the best possible alternative. By combining different sources, it diversifies the funding base and enhances the prospect of adequate and predictable funding. I am very grateful for their work on that.

Members can count on the Secretariat and my personal commitment to doing our utmost to ensure the successful implementation of that model. But let us also bear in mind that success will rely heavily on Members' generosity and sustained commitment. I therefore appeal to them for their immediate support so that we can hit the ground running on 1 January 2019.

I am aware that now we need to work on the modalities by which the reinvigorated resident-coordinator system will be operationalized, including its funding arrangements. Before the end of the current session, I will present an implementation plan addressing those questions. We will consult closely with the membership as we develop the implementation plan and move to the transition phase.

We will soon enter the fourth year of the 2030 Agenda. We do not have a moment to lose. We are committed to fast-tracking transformation and working closely with the Assembly, and for its members, on behalf of people. Change is never easy, but it can be well-managed and inclusive to ensure smooth transitions and tangible outcomes. That is our commitment. Those present can rely on my leadership and the United Nations development system to step up to meet their ambition.

I ask delegations to carry forward their resolve by supporting change through the governing bodies of agencies, funds and programmes, and through their capitals, in their bilateral relationship with each entity. I will move immediately to put in place a transition team, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, to implement their decisions. The team will work in the same open, transparent and inclusive way we have conducted this process thus far and ensure the inclusion of our funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

I thank representatives for their determination and resolve. They have shown that consensus and ambition can go hand in hand. They have done so because a stronger United Nations development system is in our common interest. It means more results for people, and more value for money. Let us build on that achievement. Let us see our efforts through for all those who look to us with hope to better their lives in our increasingly complex world.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

Before giving the floor for explanations of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Edrees (Egypt): I thank and welcome the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General.

I have the pleasure of delivering this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (G-77).

The reform of the United Nations development system has now become a matter of necessity that can no longer be delayed. For it to succeed, however, an equally important process of changing the mindset of the working culture within the United Nations system must be initiated. For in order to attain system-wide coherence, we have to build system-wide confidence and mutual trust together. At a time when the international community is facing profound collective challenges, the centrality of development ought to be emphasized.

In December 2016, the General Assembly adopted its landmark resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The resolution outlined a road map for Member States to improve the United Nations development system so that it is more strategic, accountable, transparent, effective, efficient and coherent, thereby making it better positioned to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In that regard, the Secretary-General presented his vision and concrete proposals in his July and December reports (A/72/124 and A/72/684) on the repositioning of the United Nations development system. The President of the General Assembly subsequently appointed two co-facilitators, Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Permanent Representative of Algeria, and Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark, to lead the intergovernmental consultations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the co-facilitators for their strenuous efforts to steer the general membership towards a consensus text.

During the course of the past few weeks, the G-77 and China engaged actively and constructively in these negotiations in order to ensure that the draft resolution reflected the best spirit of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. In that regard, it is important to note that the review is the guiding framework for the implementation of resolution 72/279, including with regard to those issues that have not been explicitly addressed in it. The Group is satisfied with the outcome of these negotiations, as many of our concerns have been incorporated into the text. The resolution retains of the resident-coordinator system's development focus and the eradication of poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, as its overarching objective. It further guarantees that the purpose of the resident coordinators is the effective and coordinated implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) under national ownership.

In that regard, we would like to note that the resolution explicitly states that the UNDAFs should be prepared and finalized in full consultation and agreement with national Governments through open and inclusive dialogue between host Governments and the United Nations development system, and in accordance with national development policies, plans, priorities and country needs. It requests the Secretary-General to work through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and in consultation with the Member States concerned to determine appropriate criteria for the presence and composition of the United Nations country teams, based on countries' development priorities and long-term needs. In that regard, we would like to note that the criteria to be developed at Headquarters must inform and support, not jeopardize, the essence of the Secretary-General's proposal, which is to establish a needs-based system. It also states that resident coordinators should report to the Secretary-General and the host Governments on the implementation of the UNDAFs, thereby guaranteeing accountability to national Governments, ensuring national ownership and leadership of development processes, and supporting developing countries in pursuing development paths suited to their own national conditions.

Yet it is also important to take this opportunity to raise some of the Group's concerns. We all have a vested interest in the successful implementation of the resolution, and it is our view that flagging these concerns now and reaching a common understanding on what they entail would facilitate the proper and timely translation of the resolution into actionable commitments for all the governing bodies across the United Nations development system. We note that the States members of the Group will bear the brunt of the costs if the resolution is poorly implemented, with those costs especially felt by the smallest and most vulnerable countries. Throughout this difficult process, we have lived up to our responsibilities. That is our duty. In times to come, we will be emphasizing the need for guaranteeing reciprocal accountability. That is our right. Please allow me to highlight some of our concerns about the implementation of the resolution.

First, we must guarantee transparency and inclusiveness when formulating the implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident-

coordinator system. In that regard, the Secretary-General should undertake periodic consultations and provide regular briefings to Member States when formulating the plan, respecting the ideas and thoughts of Member States, especially developing countries. Member States must also have access to the implementation plan and give their input to the Secretary-General.

Secondly, we must ensure accountability to Member States. In that regard, the G-77 and China requests the Secretary-General to closely monitor the plan's implementation on the ground and report back to Member States with regular updates on the progress made.

Thirdly, the implementation of the plan should be data-driven. Data needs to be presented to Member States by the Secretariat at every stage of the process.

Fourthly, the Fifth Committee procedures must not be bypassed and must be respected at all times. The cost-sharing arrangement envisages that the contributions of the Secretariat will come from the United Nations regular budget. That component of the cost-sharing arrangement must be thoroughly considered in the context of the Fifth Committee within the established rules.

Fifthly, the resubmission of the strategic document must be done in alignment with the original mandate of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

Finally, the Group believes that the technical note circulated to Member States pertaining to the funding of the reinvigorated resident-coordinator system constitutes an integral part of the understanding achieved relating to the adoption of the resolution. In that regard, the technical note should guide the implementation process. The implementation plan must retain the exclusions of the levy on South-South cooperation and local Government contributions, and should not overestimate the potential role of efficiency gains as a source of funding.

In conclusion, we would like to note that today's adoption of resolution 72/279 is the beginning of our collective work on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process this year. We need the active engagement of all delegations so that we can guarantee the successful implementation of both the review and the resolution to ensure that the United Nations system is better positioned to meet the development needs of us all. We are well aware that the arduous journey that we have embarked on to reposition the United Nations development system is an ongoing reform process, one that requires close cooperation between the Group of 77 and China, along with our partners and the Secretariat.

With the adoption of resolution 72/279, we have shown our solidarity in support of enhancing the capacity of the United Nation development system to implement the 2030 Agenda, and we believe that the Secretariat will act according to the letter and spirit of the resolution in supporting developing countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals while fully respecting their national ownership and leadership. Now is the time to deliver on promises.

After having delivered that statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I should like to make a brief note that is neither a group position nor a national statement. It is simply a personal remark. Today is 31 May. By fortunate or unfortunate coincidence, I was born on this day, 31 May. The successful implementation of this resolution would be a most precious and appreciated gift.

Ms. Guadey (Ethiopia): At the outset, I would like to wish Ambassador Edrees a happy birthday.

The Group of African States wishes to align its statement with that just delivered by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group would like to commend the remarkable efforts of the co-facilitators, Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Permanent Representative of Algeria, and Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark, who led the intergovernmental consultations on resolution 72/279, on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The Group also acknowledges the unflinching commitment of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General to ensuring that the process of reform begins. The African Group also wishes to congratulate all parties, Member States and the Secretary-General and his team on the conclusion of the resolution after constant engagement and dialogue.

The African Group believes that there is no better time for the reform of the United Nations development system than now, especially in relation to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We believe that if any development agenda is to succeed in the United Nations, the

entire United Nations development system must be overhauled. We are grateful that to a great extent the resolution has captured the beginning of that change. The African Group recognizes that the resolution is only the first step in the reform process, with the next and most crucial stage being implementation of the reform, which will require further engagement, coordination and commitment. In this regard, the Group calls on Member States to cooperate fully to ensure its smooth implementation.

Since Ethiopia is one of the countries that urgently require the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, I wish to underscore that the African Group would like to see an improved, efficient, effective, transparent and needs-based United Nations presence in our countries, with the full cooperation of and in consultation with the national authorities. We acknowledge that it is difficult to separate the issues of development from the current global crises of terrorism, political unrest, migration, climate change and the poverty that is ravaging developing countries. However, we can no longer afford to lag behind in the implementation of the development agenda. We believe that the time is right for this reform. We will take these issues on board carefully and we will address them.

I must say that we have made it clear since the beginning of the process that the reform of the United Nations development system is highly important to the African Group, and it was in this regard that, during the negotiations on today's resolution, the African Group engaged constructively and exercised maximum flexibility throughout the process, both formally and informally, in order to ensure that the resolution embodied the interests and garnered the consensus of all. The Group therefore welcomes the outcome of the negotiations.

The resolution underscores that development should remain the focus of the resident-coordinator system, with the eradication of poverty as its central objective. We are pleased that it also guarantees that resident coordinators must serve the purpose of the implementation of the United Nation Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) under national leadership and ownership, noting also that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review is the guiding framework for the implementation of the resolution, including with regard to those issues that it does not explicitly address. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that the resolution explicitly states that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should be prepared and finalized in full consultation and agreement with national Governments through open and inclusive dialogue between the host Government and the United Nations development system and in accordance with national development policies, priorities, and country needs.

To ensure accountability to national Governments and guarantee national ownership and leadership of the development process, the resolution also highlights that resident coordinators should report to the Secretary-General and to host Governments on UNDAF implementation. We believe that this will ensure a more effective United Nations development system.

Finally, I reiterate that the African Group is committed to this reform process and will work in close cooperation with the Secretariat to ensure its full implementation.

Mr. Bin Momen (Bangladesh): I have the privilege of delivering this statement on behalf of the least developed countries (LDCs).

We align ourselves with the statement just delivered by the representative of Egypt as Chair of the Group of 77 and China. We also wish him a happy birthday.

We congratulate all Member States on the successful conclusion of the complex and arduous exercise related to the repositioning of the United Nations development system. We thank the Secretary-General and his team, spearheaded by the Deputy Secretary-General, for their constant engagement with the Member States for an action-oriented and forward-looking resolution with collective ownership. Our co-facilitators deserve special commendation for their tenacity and perseverance, which led to the successful outcome of the negotiations.

We are happy to note that resolution 72/279 captures many key priorities of the least developed countries and offers various important provisions that could be leveraged to ensure focused and targeted support to LDCs from the United Nations development system. Now that it is adopted, the resolution will enter the implementation phase. We would like to reiterate that the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must be the guiding force during the implementation phase of this resolution.

With regard to the LDCs, I want to refer in particular to the relevant paragraphs of the resolution recognizing the need for prioritized allocations for LDCs and

support for a predictable graduation process from the United Nations development system. These are crucially important for the LDCs and should be consistently pursued by the United Nations development system.

The preparation of a revitalized, strategic, flexible and results- and action-oriented United Nations development system framework in each country, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is vitally important to LDCs. However, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in LDCs should fully integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action in a coordinated and synergistic manner. We hope that this will be explicitly elaborated in the implementation plan that the Secretary-General is requested to present to the General Assembly before the end of the seventy-second session.

We also expect the resident coordinators and the other senior country representatives in LDCs to have sufficient experience and skills related to the particular challenges and priorities of such countries, as well as the various aspects of the Programme of Action. We would also like to stress that a strong and broader country presence of the United Nations development system is vitally important to LDCs. A reinvigorated, integrated and accountable United Nations development system will go a long way in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The LDCs would not support any reduction in the United Nations development system country presence in their territories. At the same time, the proposal for 50 per cent common premises by 2021 should not mean that LDCs incur any additional financial burdens.

As mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet" (A/72/684), the under-resourced Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are crucial to accelerating the pace of development in LDCs. We would like to see the implementation of resolution 72/279 according due importance to that particular aspect and making efforts to address it.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Group wanted to see adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the resident-coordinator system by making the necessary funds available through assessed contributions. Unfortunately, we could not reach consensus in that regard in the resolution. However, we are asking the Secretary-General and his team, particularly the agency heads, to play a major role in mobilizing adequate resources for the resident-coordinator system in order to ensure its effective and impartial role at the country level. The proposals of the Secretary-General, such as those for increasing core resources to the level of at least 30 per cent of total contributions in the next five years and doubling both inter-agency pooled funds to a total of $3.4 billion and entity-specific thematic funds to a total of $800 million by 2023, have been duly noted in the resolution. Those quantifiable targets must be regularly followed up, particularly in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations development system, with a view to ensuring their implementation.

Finally, we request that the Secretary-General ensure that the annual report on system-wide support for the SDGs provides disaggregated data and information on LDCs in every chapter and contains a separate section on LDCs that highlights the progress and challenges in such countries. We hope that the efforts made in that process will reach further fruition by ensuring that the reforms that occur in other crucial parts of the system, such as the Economic and Social Council, are aligned such that the system moves and functions as one for the development of all. We look forward to a United Nations development system that effectively complements our own efforts to take development forward in our countries to a new height.

Mr. Panayotov (Bulgaria): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States.

I would first like to congratulate Ambassador Mohamed Edrees of Egypt on his birthday and to wish him success, good health and personal happiness.

We are truly pleased that the General Assembly has decided to adopt by consensus resolution 72/279, on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. We see the adoption as a significant initial stage of a long process of change making the United Nations development system more relevant and results-oriented.

We would like to warmly thank and congratulate Ambassador Boukadoum of Algeria and Ambassador Petersen of Denmark, as well as their respective teams, on their leadership throughout the complex negotiation

process. Without the dedication of the co-facilitators, we would not have been able to achieve this outcome. We would also like to recognize the continuous engagement and leadership of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General. We hope that the newly adopted resolution will facilitate the realization of their broader reform agenda, as we see the three strands as inextricably intertwined and mutually reinforcing. Their main purpose is to make the United Nations more efficient, more relevant and more responsive to emerging challenges and needs in line with the requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All those strands are vital to achieving the Secretary-General's vision for a prevention-focused United Nations.

We are convinced that the United Nations development system that will emerge as a result of the implementation of the resolution will be more fit for purpose in terms of supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We fully support the measures foreseen in the resolution aimed at strengthening the function of the resident coordinator and establishing a new generation of United Nations country teams. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of increased coordination, coherence, collaboration, value for money, transparency and accountability. Providing a better independent evaluation of results will be vital if the United Nations is to make a more attractive case to potential and current investors.

We stand ready to continue the reform process by engaging actively in the funding dialogue that is to take place this year and in the discussion on the regional dimension of the United Nations development system in 2019. We see the reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as an aspect inseparable from that of the United Nations development system and eagerly await an early update on the issue. We also hope for a successful and ambitious outcome of the discussion on the review of resolution 68/1 on the so-called reform of the Economic and Social Council in order to fully align its work with the 2030 Agenda.

Despite the fact that the process leading to the adoption of the resolution before us was not easy, the truly challenging part — the implementation phase — only begins now. The entities that make up the United Nations development system, including the specialized agencies, will play a leading role. We expect them to actively and swiftly engage in that process in support of the reform agenda of the Secretary-General. That is a sine qua non for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It must be a whole-of-United Nations effort across all agencies and at all levels. We encourage the entities of the United Nations development system to contribute by making full use of their expertise and comparative advantages in line with their diverse structures and mandates.

We also recognize the responsibilities of the States Members of the United Nations. We will consider not only how we fund the system but also how we engage the system. It is in everyone's interest that the governance of the entities of the United Nations development system ensures that all Member States have sufficient information on the system-wide and entity-level delivery.

We look forward to receiving the updates mandated by the resolution, including, but not limited to, an implementation plan for the inception of a reinvigorated resident-coordinator system, as well as an improved version of the system-wide strategic document that clearly indicates the comparative and collaborative advantages of such parts. It is essential that the implementation of the reforms start as soon as possible and that the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General initiate the transformation of the resident coordinator system in accordance with the provisions of the resolution. We have full confidence in the proposed process ahead.

The General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the United Nations development system as a whole can count on the continuous support and engagement of the EU and its member States in the way forward.

Ms. Zahir (Maldives): I am honoured to speak on behalf of the States members of the Alliance of Small Island States. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, we would like to thank the co-facilitators, Ambassadors Ib Petersen and Sabri Boukadoum, Permanent Representatives of Denmark and Algeria, respectively, for their dedication and outstanding leadership and stewardship of this very difficult process. Through you, Mr. President, we would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and their team for the reports, information notes and technical papers and,

in particular, for their continued consultation and engagement, which were highly appreciated and made it possible for us to get this far.

While we are happy to have taken another important step in this long journey, we must be cognizant that we still have a long and winding road ahead of us. And we must forever remember that we cannot do this alone; rather, we must do it together, with collective resolve.

The repositioning of the United Nations development system is not a one-pill fix. Instead, it requires careful consideration and strategic moves, especially from programme countries, particularly those further behind, such as the small island developing States and other countries in special situations. This can mean the realization, or not, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for us and, more importantly, our goal of eradicating poverty and improving the lives of every citizen, no matter where they live.

We believe in the process of multilateralism and appreciate that within such a process there must be flexibility. However, we must make sure that countries are not forced to be too flexible, to their own detriment. Resolution 72/279 is an example of such an expanded flexibility, for we all know that having a predictable, independent and stable funding mechanism for the resident-coordinator system is paramount.

The formula before us is not perfect. Our hope is that the Secretary-General, as required, will review and provide us with funding options to support the type of system we envision to be the best for facilitating countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As the year 2030 is fast approaching and time becomes essential, we might be tempted to rush things and make ad hoc arrangements, but it is actually the time for us to become more focused and strategic in order to ensure that we do not continue to expend all of our energies on repositioning and readjusting the system, but that we focus on implementing the 2030 Agenda and delivering for our peoples.

We therefore continue to call on the Secretary-General to maintain his posture on transparency, accountability and inclusiveness as he tries to formulate the best options for our consideration. We also believe that Member States and all entities of the United Nations development system should be closely consulted in order to ensure a more successful outcome.

For those of us serviced out of multi-country offices, the reform process will have to address the challenges associated with this unique operating context. The resolution's stipulation of a deadline in a framework in which the review is to be conducted is a critical step to setting these countries on the right path to achieving the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we call on the Secretariat to work closely with the relevant countries to ensure their full participation in formulating the right contexts for those multi-country offices. In looking at the contributions of multi-country offices, this review should address the real impact that they are having on the sustainable development of their members and thus on ensuring the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

This also brings us to the matter of national ownership and leadership in the context of the United Nations development system and, in particular, in the formulation of the strategic focus of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and the United Nations country teams, which must be driven and based on national development priorities. This cannot be overemphasized, as it forms the basis on which true sustainable development must occur. For small island developing States and other countries in special situations that are greatly dependent on the system — and that are among those most likely to be left behind — the whole repositioning of the United Nations development system is a matter of great importance, for it will determine how we proceed with our implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

For us, therefore, the stakes are extremely high in our effort to achieve as quickly as possible the best system to facilitate the achievement of our goal. We see the resident-coordinator system as a critical player in this aspect and see merit in delinking the resident coordinators from the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and the need to provide predictable, independent and stable funding for the system. However, we remain concerned about the temporary funding arrangement proposed in the resolution, as it does not provide security. We are hopeful that the Secretary-General will be able to provide us with truly viable funding options in the very near future.

In conclusion, we want to request that consideration be given to having the Secretary-General provide his comprehensive and detailed report on the functioning and funding of the United Nations development system

prior to the next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review so we will be to be able to use it to guide the system. This is extremely important, since the year 2030 is only about two review cycles away.

We remain committed to this repositioning process and steadfast in our efforts to achieve the Goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda. We will continue to engage constructively. We ask that our requests for clarity and our objections to some proposals not be misinterpreted as wavering in our full commitment to the 2030 Agenda, but rather as a reflection of our resolve to ensure that we can build a strong foundation for propelling its implementation.

Mr. Grant (Canada): I am delivering this explanation of position on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and my own country, Canada. We would first like to congratulate the Secretary-General and his team, and our able facilitators, the Ambassadors of Denmark and Algeria. It was not always an easy road, but we should all be happy about the strong result.

The reform of the United Nations system, including the development pillar, is critical to enabling the United Nations to reorder and revolutionize itself to better deliver on the Charter of the United Nations. This is fundamental for a more peaceful and prosperous world. Resolution 72/279, adopted today, is a key part of that reform. Canada, Australia and New Zealand are pleased to welcome it as a vital step in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and one that is grounded in an approach that advances human rights, gender equality and the central principle of leaving no one behind. In welcoming the resolution, Canada, Australia and New Zealand would note that the work does not end here. As significant donors and supporters of the United Nations system, we would like to make three key points.

First, a strong, well-informed and practical implementation plan will be critical to the success of this system. Based on the vision of the Secretary-General, Member States have created a new institution, a stand-alone coordination office for an empowered resident coordinator. In order for this transition to be smooth, the implementation plan must build on what has been proven to work in the past. In recognizing this challenge, we must acknowledge that the resident-coordinator function is moving from depending on the infrastructure of a $5 billion organization to that of an office that currently has a staff of 30.

In that context, the careful handling and maintenance of relationships will be critical, particularly during the transition period. Every resident coordinator must be better supported than those fulfilling this function have been in the past. That support cannot come from the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office alone. They must receive better network support from each member of the United Nations development group. This also goes to a wider point, which is that the structural changes we have adopted today must be supported by cultural changes, including to leadership and accountability. We trust that the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General will lead by example to drive a stronger and more accountable and collaborative leadership culture, and to ensure that this is effectively communicated in multi-agency forums such as the Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand look to leadership from all of the members of the United Nations development system, particularly UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, as well as the United Nations Development Programme, as the backbone of the system. We expect to see a significant step change in the support and engagement from those entities in order to get the system we need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We also remind Member States that we have an important role to play. We must provide a unified message on reform to the governance boards and leadership of the development system. To have them think differently and approach the new structure collaboratively, we must ensure that we here in New York, or Nairobi, Rome or elsewhere, give the same message. These changes must signal an end to a fragmented United Nations approach on the ground.

Secondly, we strongly welcome the multi-country office review, which should be carried out this year to ensure that all the offices remain on the same reform path. Given our significant investment in multi-country offices, we look forward to strong engagement and clear information leading to clear results. Multi-country offices are a key part of ensuring that no one is left behind, particularly citizens in small island developing States, which both the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda address so clearly.

Thirdly, we note that the funding compact discussions have yet to be fully addressed. The resolution speaks to one segment, albeit a vital one — the funding of the resident coordinator. Canada, Australia and New Zealand also note that the funding solution, as currently articulated in this resolution, falls too heavily on a small group of donor countries. We therefore call on countries that are not involved in this funding structure, particularly high-income countries, to consider contributions to the voluntary trust fund and also look to the next phase of the funding compact to see how they could contribute to addressing core and non-core imbalances in the system. We see the funding dialogues as an opportunity to explore how different types of partnerships can support the work of the United Nations development system and ensure an expanded funding base that moves beyond a small group of traditional donors.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand look forward to contributing to those discussions and to continuing to work with the United Nations system and partner Governments to improve outcomes and ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals are properly financed. We must now seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to meaningfully implement these reforms, which will have real benefits as we strive to meet the bold vision of 2030.

Mr. Ma Zhaoxu (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I would first like to congratulate my brother the Permanent Representative of Egypt, Ambassador Mohamed Edrees, on his birthday. Today is also the birthday of the United Nations development system reform.

Since the submission of the two reports on the repositioning of the United Nations development system by the Secretary-General (A/72/124 and A/72/684), and after multiple rounds of painstaking consultations, and thanks to the effective coordination of the facilitators and the President of the General Assembly, member States have reached consensus on resolution 72/279. I commend the efforts of all parties in that regard.

Resolution 72/279 provides for greater respect on the part of resident coordinators for the leadership and ownership of host countries and makes it clear that programme countries have the final say on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The composition of United Nations country teams should be determined in consultation with programme countries. The selection criteria for resident coordinators should be decided with input from relevant Member States, in line with programme countries' priorities and development needs.

The resolution calls on the resident-coordinator system and country teams to be accountable to programme countries and requests an enhanced core mandate of development for the development system, with poverty reduction as an important objective. It also asks the Secretary-General to report annually to the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the reinvigorated resident-coordinator system, including its funding. It charts out the direction and priorities for future work in the development sector.

The reform of the development sector is a long-term and systematic project. The General Assembly's adoption of today's resolution is only the first step of the reform process. We expect the Secretariat, in playing its follow-up role, to fully implement the mandate of the General Assembly resolution and, while working out specifics for the composition of country teams, the configuration and the role of resident coordinators and collaboration with programme countries, to listen extensively to Member States, particularly developing countries, and to fully respect the views of programme countries.

The hybrid funding model should reflect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, with North-South cooperation as the main channel and South-South cooperation as a complement. In the implementation of country-specific plans, it is imperative to fully respect programme countries' opinions on the mode and time of reform, and to reach consensus as much as possible.

China expects that, through reform, the United Nations development system's will remain focused on development as its core function and to give priority to achieving Sustainable Development Goals such as poverty reduction. In the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we should deepen international development cooperation, jointly seize development opportunities and properly address development challenges in order to build a community with a shared future for humankind in which all countries enjoy development and prosperity. China is

ready to work closely with all other Member States and the Secretariat to collectively achieve that goal.

Mr. Skinner-Kleé Arenales (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): My country aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We also wish to congratulate the head of the Egyptian delegation on his birthday.

Of all the Secretary-General's reform efforts, the repositioning of the development system, which we launched today through our adoption of resolution 72/279, could be seen as the most far-reaching because of its intrinsic link to the sustainable peace and prevention approach, which aims to address the root causes of conflict. That, in turn, can lead to social, economic and environmental development, that is, the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All our negotiation efforts and informative sessions with the Secretariat, the reports of the Secretary-General and our informal consultations and interactive dialogues have enabled us to reach consensus on substantive changes to the United Nations development system with real consequences for its operation in our countries — all with the aim of supporting, as we have said, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We therefore thank and acknowledge the countless hours of effort and work of the facilitators, our friends and colleagues Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Permanent Representative of Algeria, and Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark. We also recognize the efforts of the Secretariat, led by the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed.

Overall, we welcome the outcome of this process, as it builds on and is consistent with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system adopted in 2016. We are pleased that a development approach with poverty eradication as its main objective has been maintained, and that national ownership has been strengthened in several aspects of the system, from the identification of criteria for the presence and composition of the country team to the joint development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the dual accountability of the efforts of the resident coordinators. We are also satisfied with the direction given to the regional approach, including a strengthening of the role of the regional economic commissions in favour of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

With regard to the financing of the resident-coordinator system, we will await the implementation plan to be presented by the Secretary-General on the inception period. In this regard, we reiterate what was said by the representative of Egypt with respect to the cost-sharing modality, which should be considered in the Fifth Committee, since contributions from the Secretariat to the resident-coordinator system will come from our contributions to the Organization.

Finally, we reiterate our thanks and appreciation to all delegations for this great achievement in favour of sustainable development. We remember the words of the Secretary-General: it is ambition and consensus that brought about this great achievement, a truly major achievement that will help us to better serve our peoples.

Mrs. Arrieta Munguía (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mexico would like to congratulate the facilitators, the Ambassadors of Algeria and Denmark, and their teams, as well as the Ambassador of Egypt.

On this important occasion we welcome the adoption of resolution 72/279, on the reform of the United Nations development system, because we believe in it. We believe that with the leadership of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, we can make the United Nations a modern, efficient and effective Organization. Mexico has participated constructively and creatively in the negotiation process from the beginning, because we share the vision of a new generation of country teams and resident coordinators as the most important development assets of the United Nations.

The resolution we have adopted contains core elements pertaining to strategic direction, oversight and accountability, and it gives us the tools to achieve those objectives. However, many other aspects are part of the reform of the Economic and Social Council, which is why we invite all Member States to be equally ambitious in this process. The Council is the forum established to help us harmonize our visions of development, which we will achieve only if we can restore the Council's spirit as a forum for discussion. We cannot delay these changes.

In 2015, as an Organization, we dared to be bold, creative and imaginative in adopting the most ambitious

development framework the international community had ever undertaken. Almost a year ago, the Secretary-General spearheaded an inclusive process to deliver a development system for the Organization that was fit for purpose. Today we are delivering the first stage of critical infrastructure that will enable Member States to achieve what they agreed to in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Duque Estrada Meyer (Brazil): First of all, I want to congratulate the Egyptian Ambassador for his birthday. And while today is not my birthday, yesterday was.

One and a half years ago, the General Assembly undertook a comprehensive policy review of the United Nations development system in order to better position the Organization to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Today's adoption of resolution 72/279 marks another crucial milestone in the process of repositioning the United Nations development system. The Secretary-General endured pressures to reform the system just for the sake of reform or for making budget cuts across the board. Instead of going into auto-pilot mode, he proposed changes as a means to an end — that is, strengthening multilateral cooperation for sustainable development. This attitude deserves our strong support.

Brazil has actively engaged in the negotiations in order to ensure that the resolution we have just adopted reflects the best spirit of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and of the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/684). We have shown flexibility in accepting financing solutions that were not our original preference because we understood that the possibility of using assessed contributions would not be feasible for some countries.

We believe it is important to highlight some points that if properly implemented will facilitate the adequate and timely translation of the resolution to all governing bodies across the United Nations development system, contributing to the smooth implementation of its provisions. It will also enable a consistent approach in the Second and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly and in the different governing bodies of the United Nations development system around the globe. I would like to single out five areas where we think the details have a devil lurking in them. Accordingly, they will require continued and special attention in the aftermath of the adoption of the resolution.

First, the implementation of the new United Nations country teams must be effected on the basis of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and national needs and priorities, and criteria to be developed at Headquarters must inform and support, not jeopardize, the essence of the Secretary-General's proposal, which is to establish a needs-based system.

Secondly, the implementation plan for the new resident-coordinator system must clearly take into account the proposed exclusions of the levy for operations in developing countries. In Brazil, for instance, we have several modalities for such cooperation, including South-South cooperation, where we are a donor. The levy should not be applicable to those operations.

Thirdly, the role of efficiency gains as a source of funding for the resident-coordinator system should also not be overestimated.

Fourthly, the proposal to be submitted to the Fifth Committee with regard to the participation of the Secretariat in the cost-sharing agreement, as well as the new Development Operations Coordination Office arrangement in the Secretariat, must be detailed enough to ensure that its consideration by the Committee goes smoothly.

Fifthly, the resubmission of the strategic document must be done in alignment with the original mandate of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

Finally, I will say a word on the process. As stated earlier by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, it is our view that the adoption of resolution 72/279 is the beginning, not the end, of our collective work on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process this year. The active engagement of all delegations in the governing bodies of the entities of the United Nations development system is crucial, beginning with the annual sessions of the New York-based Executives Board that will take place a few days from now, in June.

Furthermore, it will be important in the next session of the General Assembly to revert the follow-up of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, including of the present resolution, from the plenary back to the Second Committee where it belongs, together with Economic and Social Council. The Assembly can count

on Brazil's continued and constructive engagement in this process.

Mr. Rosselli Frieri (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin this short statement by thanking the Permanent Representative of Egypt for having shared with us all that today was his birthday.

Uruguay is pleased to see the consensus achieved with regard to the need to reinforce the United Nations development system and thereby to pursue better outcomes by fine-tuning its leadership structure, the most reasonable use of its resources and greater clarity in the division of responsibilities and, consequently, in accountability as well. Uruguay commends and appreciates the work carried out by the two facilitators, our colleagues Sabri Boukadoum and Ib Petersen.

Uruguay attaches particular importance to and is aware of the challenge inherent in the adoption of measures at all levels for the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in order to ensure that it is properly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and can be implemented.

At this time of the month, only 13 days before the World Cup begins, it is worth recalling a sporting maxim: "It ain't over till it's over". As our colleague from Brazil has just recalled, much remains to be done and our work is just beginning. We therefore reiterate Uruguay's enthusiastic support for the Secretary-General and his entire team as they move to implement all the proposed reforms.

Mr. Locsin (Philippines): The Philippines expresses its best wishes for a happy life and continued success for the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Brazil on their respective birthdays. We also align ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Egypt as Chair of the Group of 77 (G-77), and express our profound appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and of Denmark for leading us to a consensus document in resolution 72/279. We hope that good-faith negotiations in a spirit of compromise will be maintained throughout the future discussions on United Nations development system reform.

As a programme country, the Philippines consistently maintains that the operational activities of the United Nations development system must be aligned with the national plans, priorities and changing needs of Member States. We agree with China that members must be consulted on the composition of country teams and the selection of resident coordinators. The Philippines supports the position of the G-77 on the need to ensure that final decisions on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the configuration of United Nations country teams remain under the authority of national Governments. That has been our core principle in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our country programme UNDAF document and in our engagement with our resident coordinator. It is important that the resident-coordinator system not lose sight of its focus on development. A tailored approach must be emphasized.

In our case, we are a middle-income country that in addition to having to overcome middle-income countries' unique challenges is particularly vulnerable to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, all in an increasingly volatile political environment where the last super-Powers may soon end up clashing. That may entail readjusting national spending priorities to favour security.

No matter how ambitious and comprehensive, the repositioning process will not succeed without a realistic funding mechanism. That must address the decline in core contributions while at the same time ensuring that no additional burden is placed on programme countries beyond their capacity to bear it, although they must do their fair share. We support the G-77 position on the need for more stable, robust, predictable and sustainable funding. We also support the position of the United States in working to realign and redirect resources and energies in order to address the issues most in need of resolution and the requirements of those most in need of help more efficiently, all with the aim of achieving a world of peace, progress and freedom above all. The Philippines will remain deeply engaged in the United Nations development system reform process.

Mr. Morejón Pazmiño (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, my country associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I would also like to join others in congratulating the co-facilitators of this process and their teams for their tireless work. Their experience and leadership were clearly vital to the consensus achieved on resolution 72/279, which we adopted today and which was the outcome of significant negotiation efforts by our experts and of the constructive spirit shown by delegations.

I would also like to congratulate Secretary-General António Guterres and Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, who are here with us, on their responsible and ambitious efforts to fulfil the mandate entrusted to them by Member States to prepare proposals for the repositioning of the United Nations development system. As we did at the start of the process, we reiterate our ongoing support and acknowledge their own intense work and that of their team. We would also like to express our gratitude for the work of President Lajčák, who steered our efforts towards today's outcome.

We have a resolution that is fit for purpose and is both a road map and a tool. It is now time for implementation, for which our continued commitment to the successful implementation of both the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and today's resolution is required if we are to ensure that the United Nations development system achieves a structure and positioning that meets all of our development needs and achieves effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on the ground. In that regard, we believe that the next steps in this process must be directed at arriving at ways to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supporting countries in mobilizing resources, including the funding and creation of capacities to achieve economic goals such as sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrial development, infrastructure investment and economic diversity.

In conclusion, I would like to join others in greeting my Egyptian neighbour and will venture to wish him a happy birthday in Arabic.

Mrs. Rugwabiza (Rwanda): At the outset, my delegation would like to commend the co-facilitators, Ambassadors Boukadoum and Petersen, the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and Denmark, respectively, who led the intergovernmental consultations on resolution 72/279 in an inclusive manner with an unwavering resolve to find common ground for all Member States. We commend the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and their team for their involvement in the process through the many briefings and the information made available for the consideration of Member States.

Rwanda associates itself with the statements delivered by the representative of Ethiopia, on behalf of the African Group, and by Ambassador Edrees, Permanent Representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, whom I wish a very happy birthday, along with the representative of Brazil.

The next 12 years will be a defining moment for the United Nations development system, ensuring that accountability, coherence and transparency are enhanced system-wide so as to maximize delivery on the complexity and ambition set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for our citizens and countries. The implementation plan for resolution 72/279 will determine the success of that reform process. In that regard, I would like to highlight the following two key points.

First, the implementation plan should continue to engage Member States during the transition of the resident-coordinator system. We encourage the Secretariat to continue to increase transparency and inclusiveness, which will ensure accountability and ownership by Member States, as well as build trust with the United Nations development system as the process continues. We welcome the remarks of the Secretary-General mentioning those specific points. Rwanda reiterates the necessity for the implementation plan to be data-driven, and we encourage the United Nations system and host countries to gather data with a view to increasing coherence, collaboration and synergy on the ground while building a solid foundation for sustainability.

In conclusion, Rwanda is ready to engage constructively, since the repositioning of the United Nations development system is just beginning and the ownership of the process by both the Secretariat and Member States will determine the outcome of the 2030 Agenda in the 11 years remaining for its implementation.

Mr. Djani (Indonesia): Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and joins those wishing Ambassador Edrees a happy birthday. I am glad that in 2016, as Chair of the Second Committee, I was involved in the negotiations on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, providing guidance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an ambitious and holistic approach in our efforts to eradicate poverty and further promote sustainable development.

In the follow-up to the policy review this year, we negotiated the repositioning of the United Nations development system so as to ensure that the United Nations is fit for purpose and has sufficient capability

and capacity to support States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, I would like to express my great appreciation to the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and their team for providing the initial proposal for the United Nations development system repositioning, in constant consultation with States. I would also like to commend the co-facilitators, our brothers from Algeria and Denmark, for their able leadership in navigating us through the negotiation process. We are pleased that consensus was achieved on resolution 72/279, on the repositioning of the United Nations development system. However, I would like to comment on several salient points in the resolution.

We have agreed that the resident-coordinator system will remain focused on development issues, stressing the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions as its overarching objective. There is a strong emphasis on national ownership and leadership manifested, among other things, through the process of preparing and finalizing the United Nations Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF) in full consultation and agreement with national Governments, as well as a new generation of United Nations country teams with a needs-based, tailored country presence. The resident coordinators will report not only to the Secretary-General but also to host Governments on the UNDAF implementation.

However, today's achievement is only the start of our hard work ahead. We must maintain our focus on the implementation of the repositioning of the United Nations development system and, more importantly, on how those changes will bring real development impact on the ground as well as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. For that reason, we would like to underscore several points.

First, the initial follow-up measures are critical to launching the repositioning of the United Nations development system. We will need a well-designed, thorough implementation plan, in full consultation with States, along with the fulfilment of front-loaded contributions, if we are to ensure that we can start the process on schedule by January 2019. We also look forward to the Secretary-General's review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of multi-country offices. There are many countries that are in dire need of United Nations support and capacity-building, including in my own Asia-Pacific region, particularly the Pacific island States.

Secondly, we must ensure that the resident-coordinator system remains predictable so that it can supply States with continued premium services. We must therefore mitigate risks to the system associated with unpredictability or a lack of resources.

Thirdly, we must emphasize the importance of an inclusive, transparent and regular monitoring and evaluation process. We expect full accountability to States through regular reports and feedback from those States in order to continually improve implementation of the United Nations development system repositioning. We look forward to the Secretary-General's implementation plan, and will participate constructively in the follow-up to and implementation of the United Nations development system repositioning.

Lastly, I would like to say that I for one am quite glad about these changes. I served as a young diplomat on the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme almost 27 years ago, and now, as a young ambassador, I am seeing changes. We all need these changes. Speaking off the cuff now, I think it is high time for us to have change. Nothing is perfect; everything is imperfect, particularly in this body, but I think this is a great step forward. I would like to congratulate all of us in this Hall who have adopted this very important resolution. It took us 27 years to achieve these changes, and I for one congratulate all of us.

Mr. Marobe (South Africa): At the outset, South Africa aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Permanent Representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Ethiopia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Group of African States, respectively.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for the presentation of his vision and proposals, and for his ongoing open and transparent engagement with Member States since the adoption in 2016 of resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. We further appreciate the important role played by the Deputy Secretary-General in steering these deliberations, as well as the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and Denmark, who led the intergovernmental consultations to the achievement of a consensus text for resolution 72/279.

My delegation has assured the Secretary-General of our support for the implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system. However, central to that reform are mechanisms that allow for

consistent evaluation and reassessment of what is working and what is not. In that regard, we reiterate the importance of the Secretary-General's commitment to undertaking periodic consultations and providing regular reporting to Member States on the monitoring of the implementation of the reform plan.

We also want to reiterate the concern expressed by the African Group about the fact that with the current funding mechanism agreed in the resolution, the cost would be felt largely by poor and developing countries whose development largely depends on every possible form of funding. Inclusiveness, transparency and accountability in this process are therefore crucial so that we can ensure that the development gains do indeed outweigh the costs.

The cost of the proposed reforms must ensure that the returns on these investments are realized. This can be done only in full consultation with and under the leadership of national Governments through the articulation of national priorities in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. In that regard, the resident coordinator has to work within that purview and maintain reporting to both the Secretary-General and the host Government. The technical notes on the funding of the reinvigorated resident-coordinator system must remain a key element guiding the implementation of this resolution.

In conclusion, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development carved out an unprecedented development trajectory for the international community. The true success of the resolution that we have just adopted today must be measured against the promise that we collectively made to lift millions out of poverty through the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. In an increasingly interconnected world, our choice is between shared prosperity and shared misery. The adoption of this resolution is a step towards the former, and signals the intention to deliver on its promissory note of leaving no one behind.

Mr. Lauber (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to commend and thank Ambassador Boukadoum and Ambassador Petersen for their leadership of the negotiation process resulting in the adoption this afternoon of resolution 72/279, which is of crucial importance for all of us. I also thank and congratulate the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and their teams. Since he took office, the Secretary-General has insisted that the United Nations must be able to adapt to change and reinvigorate itself if it is to be more effective. Thanks to his perseverance and leadership, we have agreed together on these 25 paragraphs.

Today's adoption demonstrates the ability of the United Nations to adapt to change, as well as our desire to face our global challenges together and build a world that is more sustainable and peaceful and therefore more just. The United Nations as a whole has become greater because of this notable success. Switzerland's commitment to the repositioning of the United Nations development system is motivated solely by our desire to make the activities and projects of the United Nations more effective on the ground. I know that we all share that desire. Let us never lose sight of that common objective when we are called on to take decisions on the implementation of the current resolution.

Switzerland will therefore continue in its unfailing commitment to enabling the United Nations development system to carry out its mandate more effectively. We will do it both financially and at the level of the issues involved, above all by respecting the realities on the ground. We will also do this on the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes and in the Economic and Social Council, the Second Committee and other Main Committees of the General Assembly. Above all, we will do it in partnership with the Member States and the United Nations system, as well as with all humanitarian and private-sector stakeholders working in the area of development. Development should not be the prerogative of some, a playground for political games for others or merely someone else's concern. We are all involved and responsible.

(*spoke in English*)

Before concluding, I would like to wish our friend Mr. Edrees a happy birthday. I know that it is traditional to sing "Happy Birthday", but I can assure the Assembly that it will be much better off if I do not sing.

Mr. Hattrem (Norway): I would also like to echo previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to the facilitators of the resolution for their excellent work.

Norway welcomes the adoption of resolution 72/279, on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and we appreciate the flexibility shown by all Member States. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on two main issues.

First, with regard to reforms at the country level, Norway greatly appreciates the agreement to establish the position of independent resident coordinators with the authority to lead a new generation of United Nations country teams and to make the United Nations Development Assistance Framework the single most important instrument for the planning and implementation of United Nations development activities. Together we now have a common responsibility to ensure that the reforms are implemented. We look to the Secretary-General's leadership to ensure that the country-level reforms are smoothly implemented, including by following system-wide guidelines and holding leaders at all levels accountable for common results and enhanced efficiency. We look forward to the Secretary-General's implementation plan, which we expect to cover all of the requisite steps to be taken at the United Nations, including the development of a timetable. With regard to funding arrangements, we anticipate a realistic assessment of the various funding streams, both in terms of volume and of what must be done to ensure that such funding does not fall short of expectations.

With regard to the position of resident coordinator, we feel confident that the Secretary-General will ensure that resident coordinators are accredited as the highest-ranking representatives of the United Nations development system in all host countries. As Member States, we must make sure that the governing bodies of all funds, programmes and specialized agencies take the decisions required to ensure that their respective entities contribute constructively to reforms.

Secondly, with regard to funding, country-level reforms can be implemented smoothly only if the resident-coordinator system is sufficiently funded. Burden-sharing is a central principle of multilateralism, and Norway urges all Member States to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the resident-coordinator system. It is also crucial that all the contributors of strictly earmarked funding accept that the 1 per cent coordination levy is to be deducted from their contributions. In the relevant governing bodies, we must ensure that all entities pay their full share of the enhanced United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement. Norway sees a possible funding compact as an opportunity to change the current unhealthy funding pattern, which is heavily dominated by strictly earmarked project funding and a lack of predictability. Once again, this is a call to all Member States. We are willing to look at what we can do better and will participate actively in the upcoming funding dialogue, with the aim of establishing concrete and measurable targets for the United Nations development system, as well as for Member States.

Lastly, on this auspicious day I would like to join colleagues in wishing the Ambassador of Egypt a happy birthday.

Mr. Kononuchenko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation joined the consensus on today's adoption of resolution 72/279. We are grateful to the facilitators of the resolution for their work during the negotiation process. We welcome the agreements reached among the Member States on modernizing the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF), strengthening the decisive role of national Governments in the area of development, including the process of coordinating the UNDAF, and ensuring that the role of resident coordinator continues to be depoliticized and oriented to issues related to development and oriented to issues related to development and poverty eradication.

Among positive results, we would like to single out assigning the collective leadership of the Development Operations Coordination Office to the United Nations Development Group, which corresponds to the spirit of collegiality called for under the operational activities policy review in resolution 71/243, as well as the establishment of new, system-wide evaluations. We hope that it will ensure the highest possible standards of independence and impartiality in its work.

However, we would also like to focus on a few problem areas within the process, first with regard to the funding of the new resident-coordinator system. We continue to assume that resolution 72/279 will not have financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. We also want to emphasize that the international organizations and entities in the United Nations Development Group are fully independent, including with regard to the financial and budgetary aspects of their operations.

We believe that the very hastily agreed-on combined model is far from the best option. Besides that, as far as we can tell, it will not be able to ensure an acceptable level of predictability for funding revenues and it will increase the risk of deterring new donors, particularly from the private sector. It is also clear to us that the operational activities of the United Nations

development system will come up against objective difficulties in planning and distributing its budgetary resources for programme needs. In that connection, we would like to emphasize that while we agreed to the existing model, we see it as a temporary measure for the medium term. We hope to see a dialogue on spending coverage policies among the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, and we call on all countries to comply fully and speedily with their financial obligations in accordance with the harmonized reimbursement rates.

Over the long term, we hope to see the Secretariat's promised efficiency gains from the reforms, which according to its calculations should amount to $310 million annually by 2022. We assume that those resources will be used to support the work of the reinvigorated resident-coordinator system, with a view to enabling it to receive the necessary funding soon and to stop requiring undesirable additional levies from donors, which in turn will increase interest in supporting the development system among external partners as well. We hope the full value of that factor will be taken into consideration while developing the implementation plan for transforming the new resident-coordinator system.

In addition, we would like to address the format for conducting negotiations. In our view, the agreement on the resolution on repositioning based on the facilitators' text was negotiated on an exceptional basis. In future, our delegation will insist on the traditional format for consultations on General Assembly draft resolutions, including with regard to the forthcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the United Nations operational activities for development.

We intend to carefully follow the course of this reform's implementation. We hope that in future the dialogue determining key details for implementing the reform with all the participants in the United Nations development system — particularly Member States and the programmes, funds and regional economic commissions — will be inclusive and transparent. In that context, we await with interest the start of consultations with Member States on the implementation plan.

Mr. Matsunaga (Japan): The Government of Japan welcomes the adoption of resolution 72/279. Owing to the complexity of the issues, as well as the nature of the proposals, there were differences of opinion among Member States. It is undeniable that the resolution is a product of compromise. But it is also a product of the good faith and constructive spirit of Member States. We especially want to compliment the co-facilitators, Ambassadors Boukadoum and Petersen, for guiding Member States in informal consultations both on and off the floor and treading a thorny path on their way to their goal of seeing this landmark resolution adopted by consensus. We support the Secretary-General's reform initiative.

Now that the resolution has been adopted, the United Nations development system will be put to the test to see if it can really improve its efficiency, coherence and, above all, its impact on the ground, as the resolution demands. We sincerely hope that this will be the case. To that end, we look forward to seeing a well-thought-out implementation plan presented for the consideration of Member States.

My delegation engaged in the consultations, consistently played a duly constructive role throughout that important process and chose to join the consensus on the adoption of the resolution. However, we regret that the language used in the oral statement prepared by the Secretariat and delivered before the Assembly's adoption of resolution 72/279 was not in strict compliance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. It is incumbent on the Secretariat to take all necessary measures to ensure that the rules of procedure are respected so that the General Assembly can make informed decisions. We chose to refrain from dissenting from that departure this time, with the expectation of seeing a prudent and solid implementation plan presented in consultation with the development system's entities, in compliance with the resolution and in anticipation of the system being able to meet the challenges we have discussed.

Mr. Skoknic Tapia (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Chile associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (G-77). We would also like to join others in wishing the Ambassador of Egypt a very happy birthday.

We would like to briefly underline the importance of the moment we are celebrating today, both for the United Nations development system and for our multilateral system in general. Chile believes that all of us in this Hall can be proud of what we have achieved and hopeful about what it means for the future of our work. Resolution 72/279, which we adopted today, has the dual merit of achieving the consensus of the entire

membership and showing that it is possible for us to move forward together in order to create a system that can fully respond to our current challenges.

Today we are moving together towards greater coherence, effectiveness and closeness in United Nations efforts aimed at meeting the various needs and priorities of our countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We particularly want to highlight consideration of the diverse realities of development at both the national and regional levels. At the national level, we want to emphasize the cross-cutting role of national ownership, which can ensure that the system responds effectively to the challenges that each country faces in achieving sustainable development. In Chile and our region those challenges are closely linked to our particular situation as middle-income countries. That is why, at the regional level, we welcome the region-by-region approach that will serve as the basis for the reform proposals to be presented in 2019. It shows that we are dealing with a text that not only reflects States' unanimous support for strengthening the Organization but also enables us to make progress in concrete terms so as to strengthen the technical support we receive.

We therefore join in congratulating the co-facilitators, Ambassadors Boukadoum and Petersen, as well as their teams from Algeria and Denmark, on their successful leadership of a difficult process. Our thanks also go to Egypt for its efforts to lead and coordinate our work in the G-77, which was crucial to the constructive progress of the negotiations. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his vision for reforming our Organization and for the efforts that we all know he and the Deputy Secretary-General and her team have made to bring us together today to adopt this resolution. They can rest assured that they will continue to enjoy Chile's full support in their efforts to work for a better Organization.

Princess Al Saud (Saudi Arabia): My Government aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I wish him a very happy birthday.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General and his team for supporting the Member State-driven process of repositioning the United Nation development system. I would also like to thank the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and Denmark, for their efforts in leading the process to a consensus.

My Government is pleased that resolution 72/279 stipulates that the United Nations development system should focus on supporting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In doing so, it should take into account the different development needs and capacities of each country and ensure that it is aligned with their national priorities. We realize that this important and ambitious agenda requires sound leadership, enhanced capacities and expertise and better collaboration and accountability to ensure that no one is left behind. In that regard, we look forward to a nationally led United Nations Development Assistance Framework, a development-focused resident coordinator and to country-team configurations determined by Member States. We also look forward to transparent reporting on the implementation of the resolution and to continued consultation with Member States on progress. We eagerly anticipate the implementation of an efficient system that is capable of realizing the 2030 Agenda. The Council can count on my Government's full support throughout the process.

Mr. Begeç (Turkey): I too would like to thank the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for their leadership. I also want to thank the co-facilitators for their efforts, which made the adoption of resolution 72/279 possible, and for their firm support to a reform process aimed at making the United Nations development system more efficient, coherent and accountable. The repositioned development system should be able to effectively serve countries at different development levels. National ownership and consent should be the guiding principles, with an emphasis on countries with special needs. Coordination and consultation between the national authorities and the United Nations development system is essential for its effective implementation. As a host country to a sizeable United Nations country team, as well as to United Nations regional offices, we consider it important to maintain a close dialogue with United Nations entities, particularly in the process of decoupling resident coordinators from the United Nations Development Programme. We expect the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to take the necessary decisions in a timely manner in order to carry out their mandates, including those pursuant to today's resolution.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is not just about commitments, it is also about a transformational shift in the United Nations development

system. The adoption of today's resolution is a major step in that direction. Accordingly, in conclusion, I would like to reiterate my country's continued support for the Secretary-General's efforts to make the United Nations development system better aligned with the priorities of Member States.

Mr. Park Chull-Joo (Republic of Korea): I would like to begin by thanking Ambassadors Sabri Boukadoum and Ib Petersen, the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and Denmark, for their tireless efforts and leadership during the important consultation process.

My delegation is pleased that resolution 72/279 has been adopted by consensus. The collective will of Member States is essential to supporting the Secretary-General in his ambitious reform agenda for making the United Nations development system fit for purpose in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The fact is that the 2030 Agenda will not only require the united determination of all Member States, but also a level and quality of support from the United Nations development system to match that determination. By adopting this resolution, we have demonstrated our wish to see such support delivered in order to ensure that no one is left behind. But although the resolution is a milestone achievement, we must not simply be satisfied with its adoption. My delegation joins others in emphasizing that this is merely the beginning of our long-term efforts in the years to come.

Like others, we note that Member States are asking not only for a more transparent and accountable United Nations development system but also for a more efficient one. We can see that, for example, in the support for the Secretary-General's plan for advancing common business operations in order to achieve greater efficiencies, synergies and coherence in the new generation of United Nations country teams. In addition, we would like to re-emphasize the importance of partnerships for the United Nations development system, since it cannot do everything everywhere. That means that expanded partnerships with non-United Nations stakeholders, based on comparative advantages, are crucial. There is also a need for recognition across the board that preventing and breaking the cycles of crisis, together with an understanding of the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus, are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and we should ensure that the resident coordinators work along those lines.

We look forward to the Secretary-General's presentation of his implementation plan for the inception of a dedicated, independent, impartial, sustainable and development-focused resident-coordinator system. We also eagerly anticipate his suggested options for the long-term restructuring of regional assets and the annual report on the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office. We will also engage actively and constructively in the upcoming funding dialogues.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea reiterates its full support for the Secretary-General's landmark reform initiatives, and will aid the ongoing effort of the United Nations development system, particularly through the Executive Boards of the United Nations development system entities and the newly revamped Economic and Social Council operational activities for the development segment.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position. The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 24.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

United Nations A/72/PV.92

General Assembly
Seventy-second session

Official Records

92nd plenary meeting
Tuesday, 5 June 2018, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lajčák ..... (Slovakia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 4

Election of the President of the General Assembly

Election of the President of the General Assembly for the seventy-third session

The President: I now invite members, in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to proceed to the election of the President of the General Assembly for the seventy-second session.

I should recall that, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the annex to resolution 33/138, of 19 December 1978, the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session should be elected from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

In that connection, I have been advised that the Chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the month of June 2017 has informed the Secretariat that Her Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés of Ecuador and Her Excellency Ms. Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake of Honduras are the two candidates for the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations. Before we begin the voting process, I would like to remind members that pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. All those present are requested to kindly remain in their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner.

In accordance with resolution 71/323 of 8 September 2017, the names of the two candidates that have been communicated to the Secretariat, at least 48 hours prior to the election today, have been printed on the ballot papers. Also, an additional blank line corresponding to the number of vacant seats to be filled, in this case one, has been provided on the ballot papers for inscribing another name, as necessary.

Representatives are requested to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed, and to put an X in the box next to the name of the candidate whom they wish to vote for or write the name of an individual from among the Latin American and Caribbean States on the blank line provided on the ballot paper. Ballot papers containing more than one name or containing only the name of a country will be declared invalid. If the box next to the name of a candidate is checked, the name of that candidate does not have to be repeated on the blank line.

Ballot papers are now being distributed and the voting has therefore begun. Ballot papers will be given only to the person seated directly behind the country's nameplate.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Yavor Petrov Ivanov (Bulgaria), Ms. Helen Rits (Estonia), Mr. Christian Tonatiuh González Jiménez (Mexico), Mr. Dhruba Raj Bhattarai (Nepal), Ms. Leila Idrissa

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

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Tino (Niger) and Ms. Vilde Michelsen Vaeroyvik (Norway) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.20 a.m. and resumed at 10.45 a.m.

The President: Before proceeding further, I request that members remain seated after the announcement of the result of the voting in order to enable the meeting to continue. There will be an opportunity for representatives to congratulate the President-elect in the Indonesian Lounge immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	192
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	190
Required simple majority:	96
Number of votes obtained:	
Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (Ecuador)	128
Ms. Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake (Honduras)	62

Having obtained the required majority, Her Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés of Ecuador was elected President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

The President: I wholeheartedly congratulate Her Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés on her election as the next President of the General Assembly. She will be only the fourth woman to hold that position in the history of the United Nations. Frankly, four out of 73 is not a record to be proud of, but I am glad we are getting ourselves on track. The next few months will be critical as preparations begin for the seventy-third session.

My door will always be open to the President-elect for support and advice. I congratulate her again and thank all delegations for helping to make this election the most transparent and inclusive yet.

I now invite Her Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés of Ecuador, who has just been elected President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, to take the floor.

Ms. Espinosa Garcés (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): One of the most important aspects of the Charter of the United Nations is the possibility of deciding by universal vote on the person who will lead the work of this forum. The process that we are concluding today therefore represents a celebration, more than a competition, of the founding principles of our Organization. Accordingly, this vote has been an act that strengthens multilateralism. For that reason, all States win, because by strengthening the United Nations we are making progress in building up its pillars of peace and security, development and human rights for the benefit of our peoples and our common home, planet Earth.

I deeply appreciate the vote of confidence that Member States have placed in Ecuador today to preside over the Assembly. I appreciate the very generous expressions of support and confidence from the countries of my beloved region of Latin America and the Caribbean and from every region of the world.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your stewardship of the Assembly. For the first time in history, you have made it possible for us to hold an interactive dialogue with the candidates for the leadership of the Assembly at its next session. This election is therefore also another step in the process of the revitalization of the General Assembly.

I want to express my special thanks to Ambassador Elizabeth Flores for her commitment to the Organization and to the General Assembly through her participation in this election process.

Today, with the Assembly's support, I become the fourth woman to be elected to this position in the 73 years of the existence of the United Nations. I will also be the first woman from Latin America and the Caribbean to preside over the Assembly. I hope that this parity will continue to make progress and that men and women alike will at last have the opportunity to address this forum equally, as I have the honour to do so today, thanks to the Assembly's support. For that reason, I would like to dedicate this election to all the women in the world who are participating in politics today and who face political and media attacks marred by machismo and discrimination. I would like to pay a special tribute to the women who struggle every day to access jobs on equal terms; to the women and girls who are victims of violence; to the girls and adolescents who are demanding access to quality information and education. I will always be committed to them.

I would like to thank the Ecuadorian people and our President, Lenin Moreno Garcés, for their confidence in proposing their Minister for Foreign Affairs to represent Ecuador in this distinguished position. President Moreno's daily telephone calls to enable him to stay personally informed about the progress of my candidature, and his direct interest in the process, demonstrate his great commitment to and his love for Ecuador and multilateralism. My special thanks go to the team of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations and its Permanent Representative for their intense and committed work; to our ambassadors and foreign service personnel around the world, and to the Foreign Ministry team in Quito, who have been working in the past few weeks to mobilize the support that we achieved today for my candidature.

I offered an open-door presidency and I will keep that promise. In addition, today I reiterate my commitment to acting as an impartial, objective and open facilitator. As many of those here know, in addition to being a politician, I am also a poet. As such, I am fully aware that no view is useful if we do not see, and no words have value if we do not listen. I will be ready to listen to all representatives and to work for them and with them. I want to assure delegations that I will promote every action within my reach so that the Assembly can play a central role in advancing towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I want to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your work, vision and ongoing effort during this period. I put my time and energy entirely at your disposal to work together with you in this period of transition in order to ensure continuity for your excellent work and results. It is an honour for me to have the challenge of succeeding you, and I hope that I will be able to rely on your experience throughout my term.

As I mentioned in the interactive dialogue, the bodies of the United Nations must run like clockwork, like cogs in a single, well-oiled machine moving the Organization towards the objectives of its foundational Charter. I am sure, therefore, that I will work hand in hand with the Secretary-General to promote the reforms and processes that are necessary to strengthen the Organization. I would also like to congratulate the Secretary-General on his example of entrepreneurship and his courage in seeking to achieve the best results rather than the easiest. I pledge to support his initiatives, according to the mandate I receive from Member States.

One of my greatest challenges will certainly be providing support to States in the implementation of the reforms of the United Nations system. We have the challenge of building a stronger and more efficient Organization. Strengthening multilateralism is not an option but an obligation. It is therefore urgent that the United Nations show the ability to respond to the main global challenges, and that the Organization be brought closer to the people, connecting its decisions directly to its beneficiaries, the citizens of the world. As I stated in this election process, therefore, each and every one of my actions will bear in mind the fact that the main recipients of our commitments and decisions are our peoples. We are working for them.

Once again, I am deeply grateful to the Assembly for this appointment. Before the Assembly, I pledge to work for the common good and for the principles and pillars of our Organization. I pledge to abide by the code of ethics for the President of the General Assembly with absolute responsibility, and to strictly follow the precepts of the Charter of the United Nations and the Assembly's rules of procedure.

The President: I thank Her Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés of Ecuador, President-elect of the General Assembly.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. António Guterres.

The Secretary-General: Let me start by expressing my deep appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Miroslav Lajčák for his dedicated service and exceptional leadership as President of the General Assembly. This has been a productive session, underscored by last week's milestone resolution 72/279 on the reform and repositioning of the United Nations development system.I look forward to continuing our close cooperation in the months ahead for the remainder of the Assembly's seventy-second session.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

I now have the great pleasure of congratulating Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés of Ecuador. Her experience as Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Relations and Human Mobility, Minister of Defence and Minister for the Coordination of Cultural and Natural Heritage has enabled her to understand the importance of cooperation in addressing today's global challenges. She was the first woman to be appointed Permanent Representative of Ecuador in New York.

Before that, she was also Permanent Representative in Geneva, so she knows the Organization well. Her direct knowledge of the intergovernmental negotiations on human rights, women, indigenous people and climate change will help the General Assembly to advance the agenda of the United Nations during the upcoming seventy-third session.

(*spoke in English*)

Beyond these admirable professional and personal qualities, I welcome this choice for another reason. It has been more than a decade since a woman has served as President of the General Assembly, when Sheikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of Bahrain was President at its sixty-first session. We have to go back decades further to find the other two women to have occupied the post — Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India for the eighth session and Angie Brooks of Liberia for the twenty-fourth. I believe, as the President said, that we can and must do better than a record of four women in 73 years and only two in the past half century. No woman from my own continent, from Western or Eastern Europe, has ever held the job. May today's choice pave the way for accelerating progress towards gender equality within and beyond the United Nations.

I am sure that today's decision will also lead to valuable contributions from Latin America and the Caribbean, building on the region's solid record of action at the United Nations. The world is facing urgent and complex challenges, from churning conflicts to rising inequality and the deepening impacts of climate change. The Assembly, the global town hall, has a vital role to play in debating the issues and, most of all, in delivering solutions that make a meaningful difference in people's lives. In pursuing our shared goals, we need a United Nations that is up to the task. In that regard, I welcome the ongoing work on the revitalization of the General Assembly. The Secretariat stands ready to support and assist Member States as necessary.

I also want to express my deep appreciation to Ms. Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

Her candidature was an important contribution to the life of the United Nations and the Assembly, and I would like to pay tribute and express my admiration to her.

(*spoke in English*)

We wish the President-elect the greatest possible success and all the best, and look forward to working with her when she takes up her duties in September.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the representative of Mauritius, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Koonjul (Mauritius): It is a great honour and privilege for me to address the Assembly on behalf of the Group of African States on the occasion of the election of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, and to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Her Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador, on her brilliant election to lead the Assembly at its the seventy-third session. We also sincerely congratulate the Government of Ecuador on this important achievement.

Today's election is of historic significance for two key reasons. It is the first time in 12 years that a woman has emerged once again as President of the General Assembly. Secondly, for the first time we have had two very competent female candidates running for this high office. I agree with what Ms. Espinosa Garcés just said about the fact that this is not a competition but rather a celebration of the women's agenda. It is our ardent hope that this has ushered in a real era of equitable gender representation as a norm rather than an exception in the United Nations system, especially at this level.

The African Group welcomes the election of Ms. Espinosa as a positive development, particularly at this crucial juncture in the United Nations reform agenda, when a strong and action-oriented General Assembly with the capacity to deliver on its mandate is absolutely indispensable. We are encouraged by her wealth of experience and sound vision, one that is clearly aligned with African priorities. Her personal involvement in matters pertaining to sustainable development, climate change and peace and security at the multilateral level, as well as her added experience as her country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, are all invaluable assets that will guide her in steering the work of this body. Indeed, much rests on the shoulders of the President of the General Assembly and much remains to be done if Member States are to

successfully implement the commitments undertaken in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement, just to name a few.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the African Group's gratitude to you, President Lajčák, for your excellent work as the current President of the General Assembly. We especially recognize your series of morning dialogues as a useful platform for discussing many wide-ranging issues. It is our hope that this initiative will continue as we transition into the seventy-third session. We also salute your personal commitment to the negotiations leading to the global compact on migration, and we look forward to its conclusion and adoption next month. Similarly, the successful high-level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and the youth dialogue have further enhanced the role of the General Assembly. We are confident that the recommendations from those meetings will lead to concrete actions in the future.

Another hallmark of your presidency was the launch of the second International Decade for Action on water, under the theme "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028". Such initiatives have given added impetus to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing focused narratives, attracting partnerships and increasing the level of sensitization on what needs to be done for countries to achieve their goals.

As we look to the future, we remain optimistic that our consistent call for an efficient, transparent, inclusive and result-oriented General Assembly will not go unheeded. These are challenging times for multilateralism, and as a Group we feel duty bound to do as much as possible to preserve and strengthen the institution that brings the whole world together in a bid to preserve peace and security and provide sustainable development for all.

The African Group appreciates the commitment of the President-elect to bringing the United Nations closer to the people and improving synergies in the United Nations system. We further note her wish to maintain an open-door presidency. Her focus areas during her presidency on SDG 4, quality education; SDG 8, decent work and economic growth; SDG 10, reduced inequalities; SDG 13, climate action; and SDG 16, peace, justice and strong institutions; as well as SDG 17, partnerships for the Goals, are all issues of high importance and we are pleased that they are very much aligned with African priorities set out in Agenda 2063, the strategic framework for our continent's socioeconomic development.

In the same vein, we should redouble our effort to mitigate the impact of climate change on the environment and ensure that we fulfil our commitments to implementing measures to combat this man-made scourge. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that the planet we leave behind is a healthy, productive and sustainable home for future generations.

We all agree that much must be done, and that is not likely to happen unless additional resources are mobilized. We count on the leadership of the President-elect to bring this important matter to the fore during her mandate. We are also encouraged by her desire to work with regional organizations on various matters, including peace and security, as well as her commitment to working in an inclusive and constructive way, among other things by fostering dialogue and friendly relations with countries based on the observance of international law and the principle of equal rights. We are confident that she will build on the good work of her predecessors and take the Office of the President of the General Assembly to new heights.

She can rest assured that she will have the full collaboration and support of the African Group in that venture. I would like to convey to her our best wishes, on behalf of the African Group and in my national capacity, for a very successful presidency.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Palau, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Ms. Uludong (Palau): I have the honour and privilege of addressing the General Assembly today on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States. We would like to offer our sincere congratulations to Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés on her election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

While I am proud, as a woman speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, to congratulate her, it was especially gratifying to see that this year gender was not an issue in the election when we were asked to choose the person for the post. The position of President of the General Assembly is not only prominent and prestigious but also requires committed leadership. We have no doubt that the President-elect will steer this

most important forum for multilateralism in a unique and effective way to meet the challenges of the complex modern world we live in.

The Asia-Pacific Group stands ready to support her to ensure that we remain united in our efforts to find solutions to the global challenges that lie ahead, especially on the road towards full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while leaving no one behind. The 2030 Agenda and many of the other landmark agreements and resolutions adopted in this Hall are a testament to what the General Assembly can do when we put away our differences and raise a united voice to act decisively together as a global community.

The Presidents of the General Assembly discharge one of its most important mandates when they ensure that global matters of concern to the international community, including global governance, are suitably addressed in this parliament of nations. In that regard, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to President Lajčák for the outstanding work he has done in strengthening the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly. In addition, I would like to recognize specific initiatives under his tenure, on financing for the Sustainable Development Goals; on health issues, such as tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases; on water and on young people, among other things.

Every year since the first President of the General Assembly took office, we have worked as a global family, in an inclusive and transparent manner, to advance the cause of international peace and prosperity, with the voices of all heard equally, big or small. We must continue to lead by example by promoting geographic diversity and striving to attain a healthy environment for future generations. The revitalization process is well under way, and we look forward to finding innovative ways together to support and strengthen the Office of the President. In that regard, we celebrate Ms. Espinosa's focus on dialogue and the strengthening of multilateralism as a catalyst for the well-being of all and for a sustainable planet. We are ready to work with her.

In conclusion, the Asia-Pacific Group stands together in support of the President-elect and wishes her a successful journey leading the 193 States Members of the United Nations during the coming seventy-third session.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that today is World Environment Day. As we say in my country, our environment is our responsibility. We look forward to working with the President-elect to advance sustainable development and environmental protection for all our peoples.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Croatia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia): It is my privilege to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States and to offer our warmest congratulations to Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés of Ecuador on her election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. Let me express our sincere satisfaction that for only the fourth time in the history of the Organization, the General Assembly will have a female President, which further strengthens our joint commitment to achieving gender parity within the United Nations system and beyond.

The incoming President's extensive diplomatic career makes us confident of her ability to steer the work of the General Assembly during its next session. Apart from currently serving as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and before that as its Minister of Defence, Ms. Espinosa Garcés has broad experience in the multilateral arena, having served as her country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in both New York and Geneva, which has undoubtedly given her excellent insight into the most relevant issues on the General Assembly agenda. We are looking forward to actively engaging with the President-elect on the wide range of issues before us as we continue our efforts to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pursue various reform initiatives within the United Nations system, and address other matters of global importance such as migration, gender equality and environmental protection.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of the members of the Group of Eastern European States to you, Mr. President, for your excellent work and dedication during the Assembly's seventy-second session. You can count on the full support of the members of the Eastern European Group in the remaining months of your tenure as President, and I wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Let me conclude by once again conveying the full support of the members of the Group of Eastern

European States to the President-elect and wishing her all the best in presiding over the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Suárez Moreno (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) in extending our warm congratulations to Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, a citizen from our region, on her election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

We believe firmly that Ms. Espinosa's diplomatic skills and extensive experience in the multilateral arena will be of great value as she steers the work of the General Assembly. In that regard, we are pleased and proud to note that Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés will become not only the fourth woman to be elected to this post in 73 years, but also the first woman from our region to preside over the Organization's most democratic and representative body. Furthermore, the members of GRULAC consider that her election will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the role and authority of this principal organ, particularly in addressing agenda items related to international peace and security, sustainable development, international cooperation and human rights, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Ms. Espinosa can rest assured that she can count on the full support, cooperation and willingness of GRULAC as she discharges her mandate during the forthcoming seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

Finally, Mr. President, GRULAC would like to express its deep appreciation for the efficacy with which you carried out your mandate as President of the Assembly at its seventy-second session.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): On behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés on her election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

As the current Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador, she brings to the office a wealth of relevant experience following an impressive and distinguished career in Government and diplomacy. She will undoubtedly make full use of her extensive skills and knowledge to lead the General Assembly capably and efficiently. We look forward to working under her leadership during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, where further progress in the establishment of a culture of sustaining peace, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our collective response to climate change, the promotion and protection of human rights, the reforms of the United Nations and the compacts for refugees and migrants will be among the core subjects.

Today's election is also a long-overdue expression of our collective commitment to the empowerment of women. Only three women have ever served as President of the General Assembly so far. Gender equality and the full and meaningful participation of women are essential to our common endeavours to achieve peace and security, promote and protect human rights and foster sustainable development. We are pleased and proud that a woman will finally lead the Assembly once again. We wish the President-elect every success, and she can rely on the full support of the Group of Western European and other States.

Finally, we would like to express to you, Mr. President, our deep appreciation for your excellent work throughout the Assembly's current session. Your unwavering commitment and leadership — particularly the emphasis you placed on sustaining peace, international migration, human rights, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the reforms of the United Nations — has helped us to focus our joint efforts and make meaningful headway. We look forward to working with you during the remaining months of your term of office.

The President: I would like to remind members that, in accordance with resolution 70/305, of 13 September 2016, the President-elect of the General Assembly will take an oath of office at the moment of handing over the gavel in the final plenary meeting of the seventy-second session.

I would also like to remind members that there will be an opportunity for representatives to congratulate the

President-elect in the Indonesian Lounge immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 4.

Drawing of lots for the seating protocol for the seventy-third regular session

The President: As announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*, we will now proceed to the drawing of lots to determine the Member State that will occupy the first seat in the General Assembly Hall at the seventy-third session. In accordance with the established practice, the Secretary-General draws the name of one Member State from a box containing the names of the States members of the General Assembly. The delegation whose name has been drawn will occupy the first seat in the General Assembly Hall, and the other countries will follow in English alphabetical order. The same order will be observed in the Main Committees.

I now invite the Secretary-General to proceed with the drawing of lots.

Having been drawn by lot by the Secretary-General, Mali was chosen to occupy the first seat in the General Assembly Hall at the seventy-third session.

Agenda item 6

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the seventy-third session

The President: I should now like to consult members with a view to proceeding to the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

> "The Vice-Presidents shall be elected after the election of the Chairmen of the six Main Committees referred to in rule 98, in such a way as to ensure the representative character of the General Committee".

It is my understanding that since the elections of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees will conform with decision 68/505, of 1 October 2013, on the "Interim arrangement on the pattern for the rotation of the chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly", it will not have an impact on the geographical distribution of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly and the representative character of the General Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly therefore agrees to proceed to elect the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the annex to resolution 33/138, of 19 December 1978, the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session shall be elected according to the following pattern: six representatives from African States; five representatives from Asia-Pacific States; one representative from an Eastern European State; two representatives from Latin American and Caribbean States; two representatives from Western European and other States; and five representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401, the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly by secret ballot will be dispensed with when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled.

We shall proceed accordingly.

I shall now read out the names of the slate of candidates:

African States:
Algeria, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Namibia and the Sudan

Asia-Pacific States:
Cambodia, Cyprus, Iraq, Japan and Qatar

Eastern European States:
Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean States:
Guyana and Panama

Western European and other States:
San Marino and Spain

Since the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled in each region, I declare those candidates elected, in addition to the five representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council.

The following States have therefore been elected to vice-presidencies of the General Assembly for the seventy-third session: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, the Gambia, Guyana, Iraq, Japan, Namibia, Panama, Qatar, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Spain, the Sudan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the States that have just been elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

I wish to inform members that immediately after the adjournment of this meeting, consecutive meetings of the First Committee, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Second, Third, Fifth, and Sixth Committees will be held in this Hall to elect their respective Bureau members.

I also wish to remind members that after the election of the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees, the General Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session will then be fully constituted in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

United Nations A/72/PV.93

General Assembly
Seventy-second session

Official Records

93rd plenary meeting
Friday, 8 June 2018, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lajčák ..... (Slovakia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President: The General Assembly will proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2018. The five outgoing non-permanent members are the following: the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Sweden. Those five States cannot be re-elected. Their names should therefore not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include the following States in the year 2019: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Peru and Poland. The names of those States should therefore also not appear on the ballot papers. Of the five non-permanent members that will remain in office in the year 2019, three are from among African and Asia-Pacific States, one is from among Eastern European States and one is from among Latin American and Caribbean States. Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1991 A (XVIII), of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: two from African and Asia-Pacific States, one from Latin American and Caribbean States and two from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that, of the two States to be elected from among the African and Asia-Pacific States, one should be from Africa and one should be from the Asia-Pacific region.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates — their number not to exceed the number of seats to be filled — receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. If the number of candidates obtaining a two-thirds majority is less than the number of members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

Also, consistent with past practice, in the case of a tie vote, and when it becomes necessary to determine the candidate that will proceed to the next round of restricted balloting, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to these procedures?

It was so decided.

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The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairs of the respective regional groups of the following: for the two vacant seats from among the African and Asia-Pacific States, three candidates have been communicated, namely, Indonesia, Maldives and South Africa. Of those three candidates, South Africa is an endorsed candidate. For the one vacant seat from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there is one endorsed candidate, namely, the Dominican Republic. For the two vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, two candidates have been communicated, namely, Belgium and Germany.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting. In addition, ballot papers will be given only to the representative seated directly behind the country's name plate.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B" and "C" will now be distributed. In accordance with resolution 71/323, of 8 September 2017, the names of the candidates that have been communicated to the Secretariat at least 48 hours prior to the election today have been printed on the ballot papers for each of the regional groups. Also, additional blank lines corresponding to the number of vacant seats to be filled for each of the regional groups have been provided on the ballot papers for inscribing other names, as necessary.

I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed and to put an "X" in the boxes next to the names of the candidates for which they wish to vote and/or to write other eligible names on the blank lines. If the box next to the name of a candidate is checked, the name of that candidate does not have to be repeated on the blank line. The total number of checked boxes and/or handwritten names should not exceed the number of vacant seats to be filled as indicated on the ballot paper.

A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. Accordingly, on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African States and Asia-Pacific States, the total number of checked boxes and/or handwritten names should not exceed two; on the ballot papers marked "B", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, representatives may only check the box or write one name of an eligible Member State from the same region in the space provided; and on the ballot papers marked "C", for Western European and other States, the total number of checked boxes and/or handwritten names should not exceed two.

If a ballot paper for a region contains one of the following names of Member States, the ballot remains valid but the vote for those Member States will not be counted: first, the names of Member States that do not belong to the region concerned or, secondly, the names of Member States that will continue to be non-permanent members of the Security Council next year.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Marques (Brazil), Ms. Houghton (Canada), Ms. Runge (Latvia), Mr. El Jallad (Lebanon), Mr. Traore (Mali) and Mr. Al-Kuwari (Qatar) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.15 a.m. and resumed at 11.05 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asia-Pacific States (2 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	0
Number of members present and voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:South Africa:	183
Indonesia:	144
Maldives	46

Group B — Latin American and Caribbean States (1 seat)

Number of ballot papers:	190

Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	6
Number of members present and voting:	184
Required two-thirds majority:	123
Number of votes obtained:	
Dominican Republic	184

Group C — Western European and other States (2 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	2
Number of members present and voting:	188
Required two-thirds majority:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Germany	184
Belgium	181

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of votes, Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2019.

The President: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Security Council. I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 113.

Announcement regarding the results of the election of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees

The President: I wish to inform members that the following representatives have been elected Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session and are accordingly members of the General Committee for that session: First Committee, Mr. Ion Jinga of Romania; Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), Mr. Lewis Brown of Liberia; Second Committee, Mr. Jorge Skinner-Kleé Arenales of Guatemala; Third Committee, Mr. Mahmoud Saikal of Afghanistan; Fifth Committee, Ms. Gillian Bird of Australia; and Sixth Committee, Mr. Michel Xavier Biang of Gabon.

I congratulate the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on their election.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.